

AUGUSTA HISTORICAL BULLETIN



AUGUSTA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 20

SPRING 1984

NUMBER 1

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AUGUSTA HISTORICAL BULLETIN

Published by the
AUGUSTA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Founded 1964
Post Office Box 686
Staunton, Virginia 24401



VOLUME 20

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550 Copies printed by
MCCLURE PRINTING COMPANY, INC
Verona, Virginia

NOTICE

Dues are payable January 1 of each year. Any membership not paid by May 1 will be dropped as of that date!

PLEASE NOTIFY THE SOCIETY OF CHANGES OF ADDRESS!

AS OF MAY 1, 1983, ALL BULLETINS WHICH CANNOT BE DELIVERED BY THE POSTAL SERVICE AND ARE RETURNED TO THE SOCIETY WILL NOT BE FORWARDED. IT COSTS THE SOCIETY APPROXIMATELY 95¢ TO RECEIVE A BULLETIN BACK, AND APPROXIMATELY 75¢ TO FORWARD ON TO THE ADDRESSEE.

Copies of the Augusta County Historical Atlas are still available from the society.

The forthcoming publication of a new history of Augusta County will be announced to the members this summer in advance notices. If you know of persons interested in this new book, please send names and addresses to the society.

Shirey's Guide Book to Augusta County, Staunton, and Waynesboro, Virginia by Paul C. Shirey, \$1.75

Copies of this issue to all members

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New Members

A purpose of the Augusta County Historical Society is to publish *Augusta Historical Bulletin* to be sent without charge to all members. Single issues are available at \$3.00 per copy.

The membership of the society is composed of annual and life members who pay the following dues:

Annual (individual)	\$7.00
Annual (family)	\$10.00
Annual (sustaining)	\$25.00
Life Membership	\$125.00
Annual (Institutional)	\$10.00
Contributing—Any amount	

GLADYS BAUSERMAN CLEM—1893-1983

By

Catherine B. Hankla

Jean B. Smith

Gladys Bauserman Clem was born in Waynesboro. After receiving her education in the public schools, she taught in a small county school.

Marriage in June 1917 brought her to Staunton where she and her husband, Silva Edward Clem, lived with his sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Stubbs. They became friends with other newlyweds who were soon separated because of World War I. During these years of the war, Red Cross fund-raising teas were given in various homes with Mrs. Clem and other wives of servicemen assisting.

After World War I the Clems were active in the American Legion and participated in a tour of Europe sponsored by the Legion.

After almost 20 years of marriage, S. E. Clem II, Ned, was born, a real treasure to his parents. Gladys passed to him her many ideals and interests: (1) patriotism—the young Ned erected a tall flagpole in their front yard and displayed the flag ritually; (2) Central United Methodist Church—she and Ned were active in Sunday School, church, women and youth activities; (3) geography—loving travel in person and by reading, Gladys leaves a globe-trotting son. She enjoyed communicating with and supporting a child in Central America.

For 62 years Mrs. Clem was active in the Ministering Circle of King's Daughters. The Clems were members of a couple's bridge club. She was the instigator of a sewing club which still meets at times. As a member of the Colonel Thomas Hughart Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution she was widely known for her genealogical contributions and interest in historic preservation. Gladys enjoyed gardening, was a member of a garden club and as long as she could walk, continued to improve her home.

A charter member of the Augusta County Historical Society and its first Publication Chairman, Gladys contributed many articles to the bulletin and to the *Staunton Leader*, as well as publishing two books: *Stories of the Shenandoah* and *It Happened Around Staunton In Virginia*.

Having a broad range of interests, Mrs. Clem, the historian, is most remembered for her publications of legends, people, homes, places, churches and genealogy. This cheerful, well-dressed, charismatic lady will live in the minds of many.

THE FRONTIER MUSEUM*

The First Frontier

Two centuries ago, Americans from widely different backgrounds pushed westward over the Blue Ridge Mountains from the colonies of the Atlantic seaboard in one of the great historical experiments of all time. When they were finished, the pioneers had claimed America from sea to shining sea, won it, and begun to tame it. In the process, they forged the American character.

Among the most important centers for western migration was the Shenandoah Valley. Theodore Roosevelt called it "the first western frontier of America." As early as 1710, Americans from England, Northern Ireland, Germany, and other European countries crossed that frontier into the Appalachians, eager to discover what lay beyond the mountains.

What they discovered was our history. The lives of these frontier people can tell us more about ourselves and our nation than we can imagine.

They can tell us something about our roots as Americans, something about the various cultural forces that shaped our national consciousness.

The Museum of American Frontier Culture

To help us better understand our frontier heritage and create a living link to the past for our children, an international group of private citizens, corporations, foundations, and governments have pooled their resources to help begin one of the most exciting historical projects in recent decades.

The Museum of American Frontier Culture—located in the heart of the Shenandoah Valley—will celebrate and document that courageous group of Americans who played such an important role in our national development. The museum complex will be an eloquent testament to their struggles and an opportunity for all Americans to learn how their struggles contributed to the shape of our lives today.

The center will feature four authentic 18th century single-family farmsteads, representing the countryside of England, the Scotch-Irish of Ulster, the Pennsylvania Dutch of Germany's Rhineland-Palatinate region, and Appalachian America.

Each will be painstakingly restored and furnished by teams of scholars and archaeologists from all over the world. Original structures

*Presented at the Fall Meeting, 1983, by Lillian Morse from the material published here.

from Ulster, Germany, and England have already been contributed and are ready for shipment and reconstruction.

Living History

These farmsteads will be living farms which produce livestock and seasonal crops such as barley, corn, tobacco and wheat, just as they did almost two centuries ago. The farms will be a living link to the past, not just typical museum pieces.

The farms will be knit together by an interpretive center, whose trained staff will use exhibits, films, artifacts, and other educational materials to orient, inform, and entertain the thousands of visitors expected.

A Center for American Studies is also planned. It will serve scholars from all fields of interest who are concerned with American life in all its richness and vitality. It will include a library and repository featuring genealogical records, documents, and other archival resources unavailable anywhere else in the world.

Exhibition galleries will complement the other components of the Museum of American Frontier Culture, enhancing our ability to present art and artifacts for more intense study. Combined with the living farmsteads, the Study Center, and the interpretive center, the galleries will give us an opportunity to draw together many of the learnings for the various audiences we expect to visit the complex.

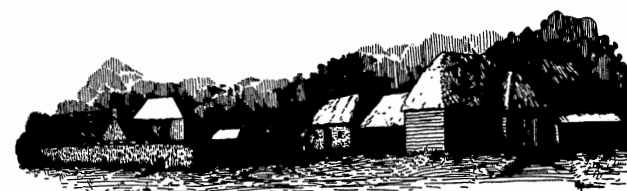
The Museum of American Frontier Culture will be a major educational contribution to our understanding of what it is to be an American. It will also be one of the most entertaining and popular attractions in the Shenandoah Valley, one of the very special opportunities for children, adults, students, and scholars to experience our history first-hand and to understand the ways in which it has evolved.

The Right Place at the Right Time

It is hard to imagine a more ideal setting for the museum. The Commonwealth of Virginia has made available a valuable 78-acre tract of land in Augustas County, near Staunton, where Interstate 81 joins Interstate 64 in the heart of the Shenandoah Valley. The region is still rich with the heritage of the people who settled there in the late 1700s and early 1800s.

Cyrus McCormick's homestead is only fifteen miles away, complete with a restored 1800 gristmill and a replica of the original reaper which played its own important role in our history. Such neighbors as Monticello, Lexington, Staunton, Winchester, and Charlottesville are further testimony to the region's rich legacy.

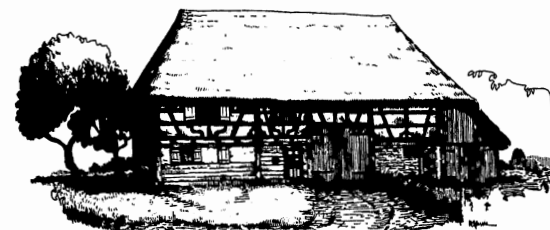
The museum complex will be located just where the foothills meet the mountains, where the major southeast-northwest mountain corri-



The English farm.



The Ulster farm.



The German farm.



The Frontier farm.

dor joins the primary east-west artery of the state. Symbolically, that's important. Pragmatically, that's important too—access by car is excellent.

It Has Already Begun

The Commonwealth of Virginia has pledged a helping hand. So have the governments of Northern Ireland, Great Britain, Germany, and the United States. They have joined people from all over the world to help build a living legacy for Americans, a living link to our past. For our children, the gift is unique and invaluable.

Virginia has also authorized the planning, construction and operation of the Museum through the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, a state agency which operates historical and commemorative museums at Jamestown and Yorktown. The Foundation's Board of Trustees includes ranking members of the Virginia State Senate and House of Delegates, as well as citizens from across the state and nation who have a deep interest in studying and interpreting our rich history.

Studies conducted by the Virginia Polytechnic Institute show that the Museum's routine operations can be supported. We need endowment and other private income to support the development of archives and artifacts. We need \$3.0 million to begin construction and carry us through the first phase of development.

How You Can Help

The next step is up to you. The Museum is turning to the people of America—citizens, corporations, foundations, and leadership—for support to achieve a truly important goal.

We are seeking gifts over a three-year pledge period, covering portions of four tax-years. Pledges may be paid on a schedule selected by the donor, including annually, semiannually, quarterly, or monthly.

We have found that the pledge method is the most practical and convenient way to achieve a goal of this magnitude. The 36-month pledge period enables you to give generously; the pledge payments are deductible to the full extent provided by law.

We also welcome gifts of stocks, bonds, and property (which may offer the donor special tax advantages). Securities that have appreciated in value frequently offer tax incentives to donors as well. Planned gift instruments (wills and bequests, charitable lead trusts and other life-income agreements) may also be utilized in appropriate circumstances.

Designated Gift Opportunities are another option. They offer the donor an opportunity to perpetuate the memory of a loved one, honor a friend or family, or recognize an organization. A list of these opportunities will be issued in the campaign literature, and a campaign volunteer

will be prepared to discuss your thoughtful and proportionate investment.

We have been challenged with a great and wonderful opportunity. We can join an international effort to create a treasure for future Americans, a treasure rooted in the past. We can build for future generations a chance to sense the living history of America and help them understand more about what it is to be an American in today's world.

A Sense of Urgency

We feel a sense of urgency about the Museum of American Frontier Culture. Each day, we see fewer and fewer examples of the old traditions which were so important in the formation of America. Each day, we see fewer and fewer opportunities to preserve the past.

This is an opportunity that won't come along again soon. The combination of resources and talent which have already been committed to this project must be met with a commitment to support the museum's construction. Otherwise, we run the risk of allowing America's first frontier to fade even deeper into the past.

We can't let that happen. The Americans who first crossed that frontier built our nation by seizing opportunity. The Museum of American Frontier Culture will preserve some of the rich traditions which guided them.

With your help, we can preserve something that might otherwise be forgotten. It's good for business. It's good for the future. We owe it to the first pioneers to preserve their legacy for the next generation of Americans and all of the generations to follow.

Join those who are already committed to giving the gift of the past to the Americans of the future. Help the Museum of American Frontier Culture become a living reality.

SHENANDOAH VALLEY HISTORICAL INSTITUTE*

By

Dr. Richard K. MacMaster

The Shenandoah Valley Historical Institute came into being to promote an interchange of ideas between those working on history in colleges and universities and those producing knowledge on other sites—part-time historians and history enthusiasts, genealogists, community-based history groups, public and private school teachers, and those taking part in adult education programs.

It is a consortium of academic institutions and historical societies in the Shenandoah Valley. It was formed in April 1981 to facilitate in-depth research in local records and quantitative analysis of Shenandoah Valley communities in the 18th and 19th centuries, particularly the ethnic and religious diversity and resulting pluralism of the early Valley settlements.

Our initial goals are the location and identification of as many public, church, and private records from that period of time as possible. We plan to publish a comprehensive guide to sources for research on the Shenandoah Valley later in 1984. The Publications Division of the Virginia State Library has shown interest in this aspect of our program.

We hope to develop a computerized cross-referenced list of individuals whose names can be found in Shenandoah Valley records between 1730 and 1820. We have begun to work with tax records for the Valley counties beginning in 1782 as a first step in this compilation and as a tool for more complex analysis.

We hope to involve a great many community residents from many different backgrounds in helping with the identification and location of early records. This will include a survey of public records, such as court minutes, wills, administrations, inventories, deeds, hemp bounty records, manumissions, bills of sale, militia records, land and personal property assessments, and census data. A survey of church records of all denominations is of equal importance and will require the cooperation of many local churches and religious organizations. The most complicated effort will be a survey of family records, including farm and store ledgers, merchants' records, account books, letters, and diaries. The more help we get the more useful our published guide will be to other researchers.

*Presented at Fall Meeting, 1983

The discovery of the "lost" session book of Cook's Creek Presbyterian congregation, going back to 1754, in a bank vault in Harrisonburg by Mrs. J. O. Beard within the last year and the identification of Methodist records listing all the classes in Augusta, Rockingham, and Shenandoah counties from 1798 are examples of what we hope to uncover. We also learned of the existence of Felix Gilbert's store accounts from the 1770s in private hands. We need your help to make similar discoveries.

The National Endowment for the Humanities awarded us a grant to support research over the next two years on "Cultural Pluralism in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia 1730-1810:" Richard K. MacMaster, Robert D. Mitchell, Klaus Wust, and Warren Hofstra are associated with this research project. We will also have student interns from Mary Baldwin, James Madison, Bridgewater, Eastern Mennonite, and Shenandoah.

Part of this research will involve selecting local communities in each of the Valley counties for exhaustive study in the 1730-1810 period. We plan to concentrate on Staunton and will probably add a rural neighborhood, such as the North Mountain community. We plan to learn everything we can about everyone who lived in these sample communities, as a test for our conclusions about the wider region.

The Shenandoah Valley Historical Institute sponsored a summer internship for qualified high school students in 1983 and will repeat this program in 1984. We introduced young historians to the use of various kinds of source material.

With a grant from the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and Public Policy, we produced a series of radio programs on the methods and goals of the new social history and prepared a printed guide for distribution to high school teachers.

We are affiliated with the American Frontier Culture Foundation and the Ulster American Folk Park in Omagh, County Tyrone, Northern Ireland, as well as with the Augusta County Historical Society. Last summer Dr. Denis MacNeice of the Ulster American Folk Park worked with us in setting up a study of Augusta County wills and inventories. Dr. MacNeice did field work in the Middlebrook and Greenville section of the county and we hope to eventually have an exchange program for students from Northern Ireland to come here and for Americans to go there.

The Shenandoah Valley Historical Institute and the American Frontier Culture Foundation will jointly sponsor a public conference on "Diversity on the Appalachian Frontier" on October 12-13, 1984. Prominent scholars of the 18th century frontier will be with us. We hope you will be, too.

DR. WILLIAM FLEMING, 1728-1795

Physician, Soldier and Statesman

Randolph T. Shields, M.D.

Dr. William Fleming, a native of Scotland, came to Virginia in the 1750s. His influence was evident as a physician, soldier and statesman, before and after the American Revolution. His activities as a public servant have been described as "synonymous with the history of Virginia during the last half of the eighteenth century."¹

William Fleming was born in Jedburgh, Scotland, on February 7, 1728, the son of Leonard and Dorothea (Saterthwaite) Fleming. After completing his classical education he decided to enter medicine. He served for three years as an apprentice to a surgeon in Dumfries and later in Kircudbright. He then studied under an eminent apothecary in Kendal. In 1746 he was accepted by the University of Edinburgh, but it is not known how long he studied there. He probably served a period in the British Navy or on a merchant ship.

Dr. Fleming arrived in Virginia perhaps as early as 1751¹. Following Braddock's defeat (July 9, 1755) he enlisted as an ensign in George Washington's regiment being augmented to protect the western border of the Colony from the French and Indians. Fleming continued in the French and Indian War through 1761. His assignments included Fort Dinwiddie; the Sandy Creek Voyage; the defeat and then the victory of the British at Fort Duquesne; and the Cherokee Campaign. He served as Surgeon and his military performance caused him to attain the rank of "Captain in the Virginia Regiment."² Shortly after his regiment was disbanded in early 1762, it was reformed in order to protect the colony from the Spanish. It remained active until November 1762.

Dr. Fleming then returned to the community in which he had chosen to establish his medical practice—a community which was named in November 1761 by an act of the General Assembly "that the said town, in the county of Augusta, shall be called and known by the name of Staunton . . ."³ There Fleming married Anne, the daughter of Colonel Israel Christian, who lived in Staunton; he obtained the marriage license on April 6, 1763.⁴ It did not take long for Dr. Fleming to become established in the Staunton community. Records note that circa 1763 the newlywed Flemings agreed to maintain the support of: "George Helvick, orphan, aged three years and four months, to be bound to Wm. Fleming, Gent."⁵ The Flemings eventually had seven children of their own.⁶ On September 24, 1763 William Fleming bought from "Israel Christian, Gent" and "Elizabeth his wife" the

northeast lot formed by the crossing of (Lewis) Creek and New Street where he was residing in 1765.⁷ On November 24, 1764, Fleming was elected a vestryman, of Augusta Parish; like many of the Vestry, he was a Presbyterian—a member of the Tinkling Spring Meeting House.^{8,1} In May 1768 "Doctor" William Fleming was named a Justice of the Peace representing the Staunton District.⁵

During the five years from 1763 to 1768 that Dr. Fleming practiced in Staunton, there were also three other physicians practicing in the area. They were Dr. William Lewis,⁹ Dr. Thomas Lloyd,^{5,10} and Dr. William Cabell.⁵

In 1766 Patrick Henry asked for Dr. Fleming's help in selling some acreage granted to Henry in the buffer land west of the Blue Ridge Mountains, and Fleming later became associated with the Loyal Company, which was organized under royal charter to partition and settle what is now Kentucky.

In early 1768 the Flemings moved to "Belmont" (near Tinker Creek and now within the city limits of Roanoke) on some five hundred acres deeded to them by Israel Christian. Botetourt County was formed from Augusta County in 1769¹¹ and thus Belmont became located in Botetourt County.

In the Roanoke Valley Dr. Fleming was elected one of the twelve Justices of the Peace, became a Vestryman, and was appointed a Commissioner with some legal authority.

In 1774 Lord Dunmore, Governor of Virginia, instigated "Dunmore's War," which led to the Battle of Point Pleasant.¹²⁻¹⁴ This battle was fought between a confederation of Indian tribes led by the famous Shawnee chief, Cornstalk, and some 1,100 Virginia militiamen commanded by General Andrew Lewis, before the anticipated arrival of Lord Dunmore's forces coming down the Ohio. On the morning of October 10, 1774 two columns pushed north on the east bank of the Ohio just above the entrance of the Kanawha into the Ohio. One column from the Botetourt Regiment was led by Colonel William Fleming and the other column of Augusta men was led by Colonel Charles Lewis. The opposing forces met and the battle was fought.

The Indians were defeated at the Battle of Point Pleasant which permitted the opening of Kentucky and the West.

Eighty-one whites were killed including Colonel Charles Lewis, Colonel Field and four captains. One hundred and forty were wounded including Colonel Fleming and three captains. Of the three trained physicians, one (McClenachan) was killed and the other two (Fleming and Buford) were wounded. Thus the wounded were left in a desperate state—lacking in medical personnel and supplies.¹⁵

Colonel Fleming described his injuries to his brother-in-law William Bowyer. "I received three balls" he wrote on October 13. "Two struck my left arm below the Elbow broke the bones, and I find one of them is lodged in my arm, a third entered my breast about three inches below my left Nipple and is lodged somewhere in the Chest. On finding myself effectually disabled I quitted the Field, when I came to be drest, I found my Lungs forced through the wound in my breast, as long as one of my fingers. Watkins Attempted to reduce them ineffectually, he got some part returned but not the whole, being in considerable pain, some time afterwards, I got the whole Returned by the Assistance of one of my Own Attendants, since which I thank the Almighty I have been in a surprising state of ease"16, 17

Fleming's wounds kept him from active service in the Revolutionary Army, but did not keep him from serving in the frontier defense. Revolutionary history in Virginia has seemed to emphasize the fighting in the eastern part of the state as well as the conquest of the Illinois territory by George Rogers Clark, tending to lessen the importance of the intervening frontier defense, but the frontier was crucial in the defense against Indians and Loyalists. This is noted in a letter to Dr. Fleming from his brother-in-law Stephen Trigg: ". . . the Convention has order'd 425 Men to be raised for the Defense of the Frontiers. Two hundred of which are to be Stationed at Pittsburg. 25 lower down on the Ohio—100 at Point Pleasant and 100 on the Frontier of Fincastle. . . . There are to be sent from each County in the Colony one Young Gent. to the Boston Army, for the purpose of Learning the Military Art,—who are to return, when learnt in order to enstruct the rest of the Colony."2

On April 4, 1776, Fleming was appointed "Lieutenant and Commander in Chief of the Militia of the County of Botetourt,"2, 19 with responsibility not only for his men but for the storing of supplies for the entire southwestern frontier of Virginia, and he built a magazine adjoining his home in Belmont for the storage of gun flints, gunpowder and other supplies. Much of his time was occupied by the problems of Indian atrocities and Tory uprisings.

In 1777 William Fleming became a state senator representing the counties of Botetourt, Montgomery, Washington and Kentucky, and from time to time he was in Williamsburg.

Two years later, in 1779, he was appointed a commissioner for Kentucky by Thomas Jefferson, then Governor of Virginia.19 This post was created when the end of British rule triggered great confusion in "settling the titles of claimers to unpatented lands under the present and former government."1 During the winter of 1779-80 he approved the titles of some "1,334,050 acres owned by 1,328 persons."20

Fleming recorded this dangerous western trip by horse and foot from October 1779 to May 1780. His writings include the description of the anatomy and use of the buffalo, the extraction of salt from water below the earth's surface, the extreme cold and snow of winter, the fear of the Indians, physical ailments, and his own sensations when being subjected to bloodletting.21

Fleming was a member of the Continental Congress 1779-8122, 23 and was said to be "the only person from west of the Blue Ridge who sat in that body."6

On June 20, 1780 Dr. Fleming took his seat on the Council of State or Privy Council.18 In 1781 the British strategy was to take over Virginia in order to separate the northern colonies from those in the south. As a result of the invasion of Virginia by British forces the General Assembly session in Richmond was adjourned and then reconvened in Charlottesville on May 24. On June 3 Lieutenant Colonel Tarleton, under orders from Cornwallis, attempted to capture Governor Jefferson. The British were unsuccessful in catching Jefferson, but they did cause the legislators to flee from Charlottesville and reconvene in Staunton on June 7. Jefferson's term of office had expired, and as neither the Governor nor the President of the Council (Lieutenant Governor) were available, Fleming as the senior member of Council became Lieutenant Governor and acted as Governor (June 4-12, 1781)11 until the arrival in Staunton on June 19 of the newly elected Governor Thomas Nelson. (Jefferson had "proposed to his friends in the legislature that Genl Nelson . . . should be appointed Governor, believing that the union of the civil and military power in the same hands, at this time would greatly facilitate military measures."25

Fleming displayed admirable leadership during this short chaotic period when so much was at stake for Virginia as well as the other Colonies. (Two other physicians have served as Governor of Virginia. Doctor John Pott, Governor, elected by the Council, March 5, 1628-March 1630.11 John Floyd, from Montgomery County, March 4, 1830-March 31, 1834.11, 26.

After the defeat of the British at Yorktown in October 1781, Virginia attempted to correct the difficulties reported to be existing in the "Western Country." In large part these problems related to the supply and finance associated with the occupation and government of the Illinois country by General George Rogers Clark. Charges of fraud and dishonesty had arisen. Although Dr. Fleming was in poor health, he was appointed a commissioner and became head of the Commission to investigate the problems and to regulate the conditions. (Other commissioners were Colonel Samuel McDowell [father of Dr. Ephraim McDowell], Caleb Wallace, and Colonel Thomas Marshall [father of

Chief Justice John Marshall].²⁰) Fleming left Belmont on October 2, 1782, for the "Western Country" and did not return until the following May. There at Belmont the Commission continued the settling of accounts from records and depositions obtained in Kentucky. The findings failed to confirm the widespread corruption anticipated, but rather suggested that many of the rumors had been based on depreciated currency and careless business practices.²⁴ "The Commission . . . became a board for the adjustment of claims rather than a group searching out fraud,"²⁴ and it helped to establish a sound fiscal system.

Fleming owned some 80,000 acres in Kentucky.¹ In 1784, when the first Kentucky Convention met, Fleming attended as a representative from Lincoln County and was named the president of the convention.¹⁹

The Virginia Constitutional Convention met in Richmond on June 2, 1788, and William Fleming was a representative from Botetourt. The other states observed the deliberations of Virginia which was still the largest state. Fleming voted with the majority to ratify the Federal Constitution and to sustain the qualifying amendments which the convention adopted.²⁷ Attendance at the convention marked the end of public life for Dr. Fleming.

Fleming supported public education. In 1776 he was appointed to be on the original board of trustees of "the Liberty Hall Academy" (later to become Washington and Lee University).^{8, 28} He became a trustee (probably in 1783)²⁹ of Transylvania Seminary (forerunner of Transylvania University).^{1, 30} When the Botetourt Seminary was incorporated in Fincastle in 1784, it is noted that Dr. Fleming was one of the Trustees.^{1, 31}

We know little of the details of Dr. Fleming's medical practice. Remarks are made by historians such as: "His medical practice was extensive and successful . . ."²² ". . . and his service as surgeon and physician were valuable."¹⁶

In the Fleming Papers at the Washington and Lee University Library are medical records kept by Dr. Fleming. They list various treatments and charges. Most of the charges were for drugs (pills, drops, ointments, spirits, powders, etc.). Many medicines were descriptive of their functions, such as purging pills, antehisterick drops or pills, worm powders, bitters, an anodyne drouht, A. Vomit, fever pectoral powder, smelling bottle, eye water, etc. Charges for services included "bleeding," dressing wounds, blisters "Performing the Operation of a Fistula . . . and ten days attendance," and so on. The charge "for setting your son's leg" in 1770 was one pound, and the same charge was made for "Reducing dislocated shoulder" on March 4, 1771.²

Many of Dr. Fleming's patients were persons of prominence. These included Dr. Fleming's father-in-law "Capt. Israel Christian" and his brother-in-law "Colo." William Christian, General Andrew Lewis (Dr. Fleming was present at the general's deathbed in Bedford County on the evening of September 25, 1781),^{2, 32} Mrs. Charles Lewis, Capt. John Lewis, the Rev. Mr. John Craig, the Rev. Mr. Caleb Wallace, and Stephen Trigg.² Also Capt. Peter Hog who later became the father-in-law of Dr. Jesse Bennett of Caesarean fame, at Edom and Dr. Hugh Mercer (General Mercer), then of Fredericksburg, who was killed at the Battle of Princeton, January 1777.

Dr. Fleming continued his medical work throughout his life and glimpses of such activities are noted from time to time. His diary on November 1, 1782 notes: ". . . went to Boons Station to see Isrl Boon who was wounded at Lickg and dressed his wounds . . ." and again on November 20, 1782 is noted: "went to Harrodsbg. dressed- Baker, & c; & returned."³³ Also in November 1782 he was recorded as "fixing medicine for Col. Bowman's diabetes."²⁴ After inspecting the well at the Fort at the Ohio River Falls in 1783, he mentioned the health of the inhabitants remarking that they were healthier "and not subject to the Phagadencie cancerous ulcers and malignant fever so general when I was there in 1779."¹ In June 1783 he bought a set of medical instruments "costing £ 10.10."²⁴

His library was impressive—324 volumes, including 43 works on medicine and 44 on religious subjects.^{17, 34} There were also books of philosophy, science, literature, fiction and other diverse subjects.

Glancing over the Fleming manuscripts in the Washington and Lee University Library is most enlightening. So much has been preserved of correspondence pertaining to many categories—personal and family, medical, military, land and geography, scientific, and political matters. From them we glean a little about Fleming's personality. He is described as "a man of benevolent character, much beloved by his contemporaries . . ."¹⁶ Fleming was a wise, practical, observant, courageous, dutiful, cautious and conscientious citizen who exemplified these qualities as a physician, soldier and statesman. He has been characterized as an "energetic soldier, practical man of affairs, pious, a hospitable country gentleman" . . . with "dignity, courtesy, engaging adress, intellectual" and a "favorite in social life."²³ His letters reveal his kindness.

In his last years Dr. Fleming's physical health deteriorated but his mind remained clear. He died in August 1795. His grave is on a knoll near Belmont, now within the city limits of Roanoke, Virginia.

One cannot review a life like that of William Fleming without being profoundly impressed by the people of that period. One notes the rugged times in which those early pioneers lived: the lack of resources

and implements, the great loss of life from Indian attacks and disease, the difficulties of farming and transportation, the limitations of housing, clothing, and food supplies, and their dependence on their own ingenuity and the work of their hands. One is impressed, too, by the repeated evidences of the sustaining power of Christian faith in the lives of so many, as was true of Dr. Fleming.

This is brought out in a letter written from "Logans, April 19, 1780" by Fleming to his wife in which he reveals a sense of appreciation for the understandable position of the American Indian, while trying also to relieve his wife's anxiety as to his safety:

"My Dr you express great anxiety at the Amount of the Murders committed here by the Enemy. It is expected they will be as diligent in Mischief as possible as they must imagine such a multitude of People coming into this Country must of course make them uneasy and Murders are daily perpetrated in every quarter, but my Dr Nancy rely on the Almighty . . . in him is my trust, nor have I the least apprehension, my hopes are in him for your protection—we shall be a pretty strong party in our way in and I shall endeavor to be as prudently cautious as necessary whilst here"²

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THE CAVE-IN, 1910

William E. Eisenberg

(Author's Note: Information for this article has been taken primarily from the EXTRA SPECIAL CAVE-IN EDITION of the Staunton *Spectator and Vindicator*, a weekly publication, Vol. 89, No. 33, August 19, 1910, as well as from the writer's memory. Happenings in the story beyond the date of August 18, the time when the EXTRA went to press, are chiefly from the STAUNTON DISPATCH AND NEWS, published daily except on Mondays. R. S. Turk was editor of both papers. The SPECTATOR'S account, it will thus be seen, is a distillation of the DISPATCH AND NEWS reports.)

In the days when Staunton's streets numbered three running north and south—Augusta, Water and Lewis—and three running east and west—Frederick, Beverley and Johnson—a pioneer citizen named Stuart owned a farm adjacent to the north boundary between Augusta and Lewis streets.

Lewis Creek, flowing from its source in present-day Gypsy Hill Park, ran through Stuart's farm, branching before the town limits were reached. Between eastern and western branches of the stream the land was marshy and often covered with water. The spot was known as Stuart's Frog Pond. It was destined to claim a certain notoriety and fame more than a century and a quarter later, and this prominence, such as it was, descended upon it suddenly and quite unexpectedly on the morning of Thursday, August 11, 1910.

Meanwhile, during the intervening years, Staunton had grown in all directions beyond its earliest boundaries. Lewis Creek posed a problem year after year until in 1893 it was arched over, and thereafter its waters were supposed to flow in a restraining channel down to Johnson Street. Central Avenue was opened as a northern extension of Water Street. Buildings were erected on both sides of the new thoroughfare, and Baldwin Street was added as the next parallel street north of Frederick, its short distance of but two squares running between Augusta and Lewis.

At the northwest corner of Frederick Street and Central Avenue, in 1910, stood the Elk's Home. Next to it, to the west, was the Smith Fuel and Ice Company plant. Then, on the northeast corner of Frederick and Lewis, came the Post Office. North of the Post Office, on the east side of Lewis Street, were three residences, the homes of Mrs. Mary Glenn, and Messrs. James Todd and C. L. Wilson. Mr. Wilson ran a grocery store, though he was known as Professor Wilson from his ability to play a violin. His home occupied the corner of Lewis and Baldwin streets. Adjacent to it, on the Baldwin Street side, was a second

house owned by Mr. Wilson and rented to a Mr. Balsley, and two small storerooms owned by Wilson came next. Wilson likewise owned the residence adjacent to him on Lewis Street occupied by Mr. Todd.

At the southwest corner of Baldwin and Central Avenue was located the fruit market and packinghouse of John Landes, and directly across Baldwin Street on the northwest corner was the station house of the Staunton Fire Department. Here horse-drawn equipment was kept and stables for the horses. On the north side of Baldwin Street westward were the playgrounds and building of the public school for primary pupils, built in 1903. On the west side of Central Avenue to the rear of the Fire House, were the Bosserman stables, while a short distance farther north, beyond an east-west alley, were the gardens of John Fallon, florist.

Everything in town seemed normal that morning of Augusta 11, 1910. Early rising picnickers, members of the Lutheran Sunday School, caught a C. and O. train for Mt. Elliot Springs at the foot of Elliot's Knob, there to enjoy a day's outing. John Landes' employees assembled as usual to work at their apple packing jobs. Men at the Fire House were caring for their routine duties. The Balsley and Wilson households had their customary breakfasts and started on their daily schedules. It was a delightful midsummer day and all seemed well with the world.

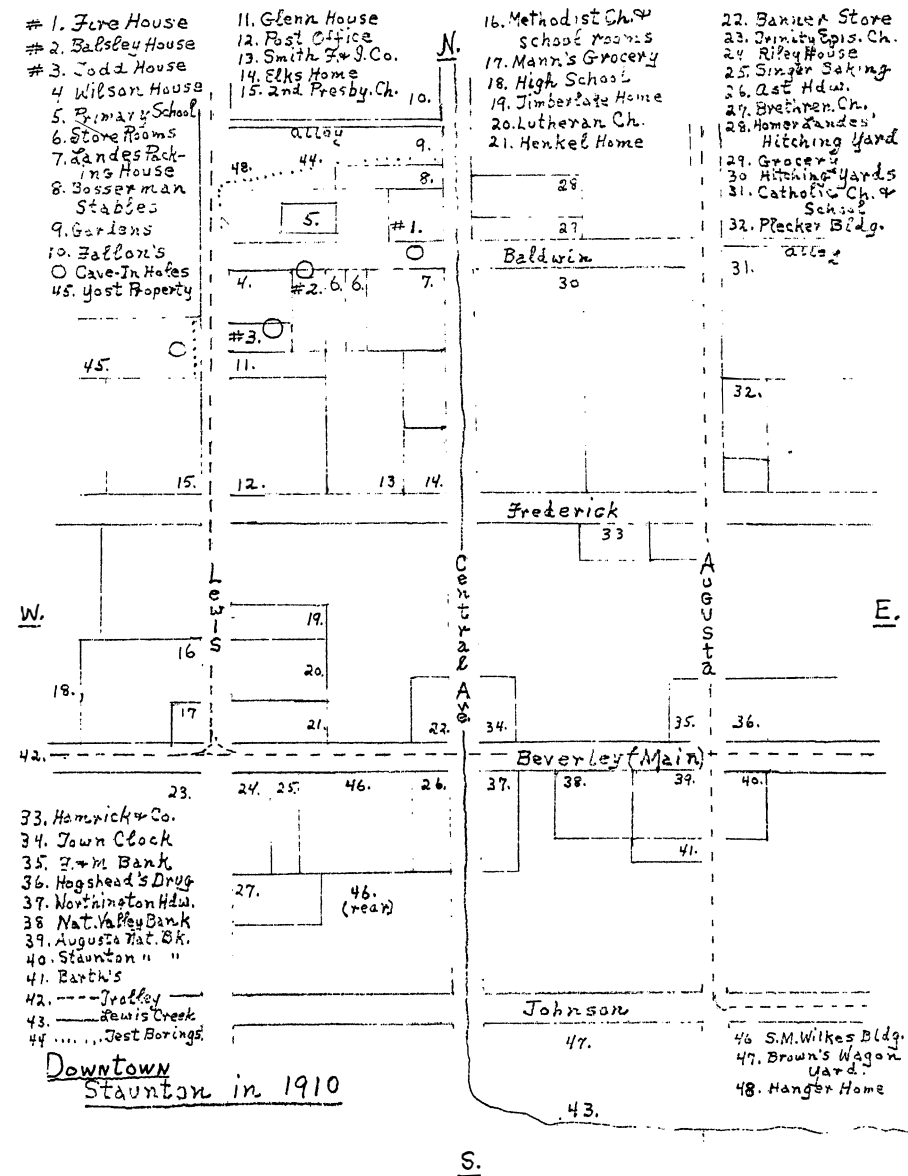
And then it happened!!

Staunton's daily, the *Dispatch and News*, recorded the event as follows:

"About 10 o'clock Thursday morning, the people who were packing apples for Mr. John Landes on Baldwin Street heard a crash as if under their feet, and suddenly buildings shook and the pavement sank about four feet. The alarm became general thereabouts and, in a moment or two, the boys at the Fire House just by ran out, the chief of police arrived shortly after, and persons living in a house just over the break, which proved to be the family of Mr. Balsley, an employee of the Gas Company, got quickly out.

"It was at once discernible that a cave-in had begun, the depth of which could not be ascertained. The break was so extended that it became certain that something of no ordinary character was impending. Those who came at once stood in consternation as to what might be expected. Professor C. L. Wilson was upon the scene, and naturally much excited. The chief of police had ropes brought at once, and with City Manager Ashburner, stretched them across the street to keep back crowds; and they began also to hold back the curious.

"The sinking of the ground continued constantly, and in less than an hour it had sunk ten feet and the radius of the cave-in was about 30 feet. Every now and then dust would rise, showing that fresh caving was



going on. The breaks at first opening were not sudden, after the first one. The sinking was gradual but fast, as shown by surrounding objects, and especially by a tree about 25 feet in height which stood almost in the center of the first break. In less than two hours this tree had entirely disappeared, being dragged under like one in a quicksand

"About the time of the disappearance of the tree, a sudden, and by odds the loudest and quickest, break occurred almost under the fire department building. Dust rose from a hole, about four feet square at first, in the pavement in front of the engine house. This was sufficient warning for the department to go to work and remove machinery and furniture. This they did quite expeditiously. Mr. Landes, who had several hundreds of barrels of apples on the opposite side of the street, began to get busy also.

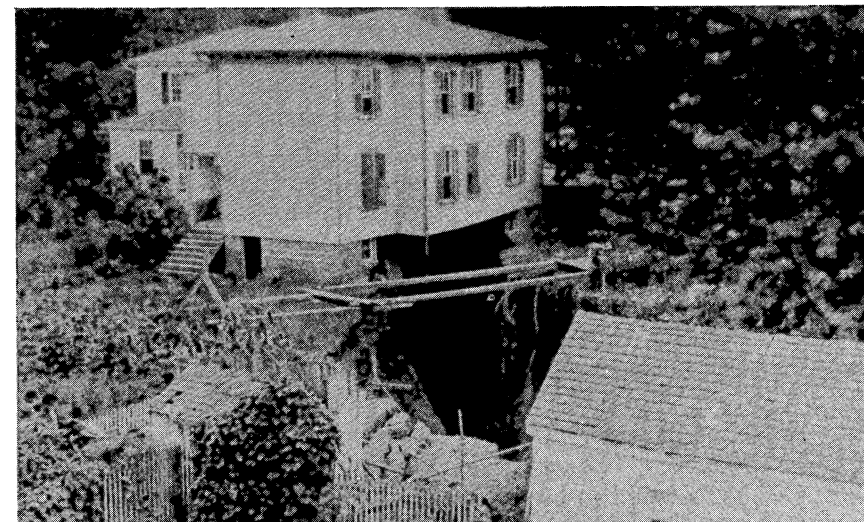
"By this time Mayor Wayt and several members of the City Council had been notified and were upon the scene. The breaks, of which there are now two, continued to grow wider and their yawning more dangerous. The large new public school building is just across from where the first break occurred and has become involved. The steps have begun pulling from the building and these cracks are increasing in size. Some large cracks are appearing in the rear of Professor Wilson's residence, some 75 feet from the original break, and it looks as if it may be dragged down.

"At about 4 o'clock the house which stood over the first break, the home of Mr. Balsley, fell in with a crash and now lies buried out of sight. It was a two-story structure, 25 by 35 feet.

"All along at intervals huge sides of these craters would break and fall with heavy detonation, showing the crevasse to be deep. At 5 o'clock, or thereabout, fresh crevasses opened directly in the rear of Professor Wilson's home, destroying his garden and endangering his kitchen, if not his whole house, which is a fine brick structure.

"The crevasse runs diagonally across the square formed by Lewis, Central Avenue and Baldwin Street. The houses most involved are the City Fire Company building, which is hanging, one end over the crevasse, several storerooms, property of Professor Wilson, and his home. Should the break continue across Lewis Street, it will involve valuable residences.

"About 5 o'clock water began oozing up in the gardens of John Fallon, florist, and to run down over the gardens of those below him and between his gardens and the Fire House. Mr. Ashburner immediately put a force of workmen to digging a sluice to turn this water into the main Lewis Creek, which flows through the town some 30 feet east of the break."



August 13, 1910, Staunton, Va. Cave-in to rear of house on Lewis Street, looking toward it from Baldwin Street. On east side of Lewis Street.

Photos courtesy of Richard M., Jr., & Thomas B. Hamrick



August 13, 1910, Staunton, Va. Cave-in looking east on Baldwin Street from just east of Lewis St. Hole to left is in front of firehouse.

There were theories advanced as to the cause of the cave-in. One held that there was a subterranean stream, hitherto unknown, flowing west of the crevasse, carrying away the soft earth, which in that area had been filled-in earth over past scores of years. Formerly, on the site of the public school, a public market house, with auditorium above known as Columbian Hall, had once stood. Its foundations had been laid on pilings driven deep into the marl. It was argued further, that if the presumed subterranean stream had passed under, or near enough to, this piling, then the school building would be in real danger. To ease matters somewhat, it was thought also that the stream, while deep, may not be large, and that the crevasse at that time may be as wide as it would likely become. The fact that water was coming out of the ground above the break was said to indicate that a dam had been formed which forced the water to rise above ground.

City Manager Ashburner, an experienced engineer, held initially that the trouble was caused by the boring of an 800-foot-deep well by the Smith Fuel and Ice Company about a hundred yards south of the crevasse, in order to obtain soft water for the manufacture of ice. A suction pump had been installed in the well, and its steady pumping had brought up in recent days water that was muddy and foul. Ashburner estimated that the water pumped from the well would occupy a space required by 4,263 cubic yards of dirt, and that the withdrawal of this water left a roof of weak, inferior strength that could easily give way. This theory, however, soon was disproved.

A third theory maintained that the water from Lewis Creek had been diverted from its passage through the arched tunnel under Central Avenue, and this water had been percolating the soil in a meandering course, re-entering the stream further on at Johnson Street back of the S. M. Wilkes building. The volume of water in this stream had been increased by recent heavy rains. During the summer Lewis Creek had overflowed its banks on several occasions, and this was particularly true on the night of August 2nd, when bridges over Greenville Avenue and over Coalter Street were entirely submerged. Frank T. Ware, trustworthy black citizen, claimed that he had found a point at which the water, diverted from Lewis Creek, re-entered its old channel.

Professional help from government engineers was requested promptly. Both city manager Ashburner and postmaster S. Brown Allen wired Washington officials for assistance. Their appeals brought to town the next day engineer Harry Frazier, an expert in his field, Mr. Van Horn, of the Geological Survey, and Mr. Heald, from the office of Supervising Architect, in charge of government tests to be made at the post office building.

Photographers soon appeared on the scene to take pictures of the unusual disaster.

The bold and careless had to be restrained from taking unnecessary risks as they sought to peer into the crevasse, the depth of which had been estimated tentatively at 190 feet. No one suffered personal injury, the only known casualty of the day being a setter dog which fell in after dark.

Some picnickers, who arrived at Mt. Elliot Springs in the afternoon to join the earlier party for supper only, brought strange and unbelievable news with them: how the bottom had fallen out of Staunton, and how the town, literally, was going under.

At dusk the eastbound C. and C. train returned the pleasure seekers to town. The writer, a boy of seven years, was in the group, in the friendly company of Attorney and Mrs. H. F. Scheele. We came at once to Baldwin Street, where Policeman M. H. Sutton was on duty in front of the Fire House. Recognizing the Scheeles, Officer Sutton permitted them to pass under the ropes to get a closer look at the abyss. Their young friend tagged along. It was nearly night, and the depth of the crevice caused the hole to appear as blackest darkness. To these young eyes the sight was disappointing.

By midnight of this first day of The Cave-In the crevices continued to widen, and water was filling the chasm at the Fire House. Mr. Wilson's kitchen was slowly sinking. James Todd decided to move out of his home.

Friday, August 12, the second day, witnessed the further enlargement of the openings and the rising of water within them. Throughout the night there had been detonations caused by falling earth and stone. Many persons were on hand, watching and waiting to see what might happen, but they were not permitted to go beyond the restraining ropes. By early morning the kitchen to the Wilson house seemed ready to fall in. The sink had increased noticeably in the garden of that property.

About 9 A.M., decision was made to tear down a part of the Fire House, a decision which in the afternoon was countermanded. Cracks at the school building apparently were no wider.

Shortly after noon a greater break occurred in the vicinity of the Wilson home. The Todd house, to the south on Lewis Street, became seriously involved. An ell to that residence was sinking. At 12:00 P.M., the largest break yet took place. Three trees in the Wilson yard were swept away "like sheaves of wheat disappearing in a thrasher." Heavy detonations followed. Onlookers were hurried to safer ground; Lewis Street was closed to street cars and other traffic; a wall of the Todd house was carried under; and Mrs. Glenn moved from her home. Indications pointed to a deep, subterranean passageway.

Into the Fire House crevice an 80-foot rope, with weight attached, was lowered from a second story window, but the bottom of the chasm was not reached. This meant that at least 70 feet of rope was beneath the level of the street. The crevice, having filled with water, its bottom could not be seen nor its depth ascertained.

Hundreds of out-of-town sightseers, in addition to residents of the town and county, arrived to have a look, many coming by train from Clifton Forge, Charlottesville and Harrisonburg.

Later in the afternoon restricted traffic was allowed on Lewis Street, where trolley cars were permitted to run slowly.

Mrs. Glenn went to the home of a son; Mr. Wilson decided to take quarters in the Plecker building on North Augusta Street; and Mr. Todd went to the home of a brother-in-law, William Hamrick.

As a result of expert engineering advice, it was decided to fill the crevice at the Fire House. This work was started in the afternoon, when wagons hauled in large stones and dumped them into the area undermining that building.

The kitchens of the Todd and Wilson homes continued to sink and were in greater jeopardy. The chasm receiving the Balsley house enlarged so that the house disappeared entirely from sight. From a point in the Fire House, water of considerable volume, but from an undetermined source, could be seen flowing. Some hapless chickens from nearby henhouses had flown into the crevasse, one or two of which only were recovered. Utensils and furniture from the Wilson kitchen were observed on their way to oblivion.

City manager Ashburner and Mr. Charles Catlett, local geologist and chemist, consulted as to the best means of testing where water, which appeared in Brown's wagon yard on Johnson Street, came directly through the crevasse. A saline test was tried. Ashburner put more than 200 pounds of salt in Lewis Creek at the Alms House on Churchville Avenue; then after a while, he tested the water at the wagon yard. Should the tested water prove to be salty, evidence would be conclusive that a channel had been cut outside the Central Avenue culvert. This culvert was inspected by Ashburner, accompanied by Assistant O'Callahan. The salt test proved inconclusive.

When asked about the large stones being dumped into the chasm, Mr. Ashburner replied that their use was an experiment only, to see if the fallen earth might be prevented from being washed away. A measurement taken by him at the engine house showed a distance of 46 feet between the street surface and water level.

On Saturday, August 13, day three of The Cave-In, in the wee small hours, the kitchen of the Wilson house fell with a crash and soon was out of sight. Foundations fell from the ell of the Todd house. Under

this house was a tunnel, or mouth of a cavern, the depth and extent of which were not known. It was through this tunnel that the trees from the yard were swept, and it is said to have looked most dangerous and awesome. It was believed to be about 25 feet high and 8 feet wide, and where it went, nobody could say.

The experts from Washington, with the city manager, made thorough inspection of the ground. No trouble was found at the post office, nor near enough to it to affect it, since solid limestone was found to underlie that area. The location of the Second Presbyterian Church was pronounced safe also.

Messrs. Ashburner, Catlett and Van Horn went over the ground again, inspecting it minutely. Van Horn approved what had been done thus far in filling the chasm at the Fire House.

Examination of the arch between the break and the opposite side of Baldwin Street showed it to be on solid rock, while the channel cut across Baldwin Street was between two sidewalls of limestone. Further testing was to be made. Hopefully, an arch of concrete could be constructed and the street restored to normal use.

The break at the Balsley house was found to be more difficult of solution. Still, it was believed, that the opening could be bridged over.

Some ten or more wagons continued to haul rock to the Fire House crevice. The rocks began at last to show at the surface of the water, a sign of a foundation beneath. This work was then stopped, its objective having been attained.

During the day, heavy falls of earth from the crest of the cavern at the Todd house were reported, and their sound spoke of deep water. Opinion now held that the water passing through the crevasse came from seepage from the hills, and not from an underground stream. Two dynamite blasts, intended to break off a dangerous overhanging ledge, failed to accomplish that purpose.

Of peculiar interest to all was the effort of B. L. Partlow, local builder, to save the Wilson house. He and his workmen began the construction of an access bridge across the chasm so that salvage work might go forward.

From this point in the story onward the chronological order of details as occurring from day to day cannot be followed. Attempt will be made, however, to include a full accounting of the facts.

To ascertain the nature of the underlying rock sub-structure, many test holes were bored. At the Post Office solid rock was struck at depths of 21½ feet to 34 feet. A series of seven holes, at intervals of three feet, were bored across the valley above the Bosserman stables at right angle to Central Avenue. The deepest hole showed solid rock at 27½ feet, the shallowest at 20 feet. A steam drill was installed on Lewis Street to bore

another line of holes along it and across the lots above the public school to meet the line drilled back of the Bosserman stables. Results from this drilling were gratifying to the engineers, for they enabled them to make arrangements, should it be necessary, to put a dam there to hold water and turn it into the artificial Central Avenue waterway, so that seepage might be controlled. All borings showed solid rock at depths less than 35 feet, which established the fact that the main crevasse was located between two walls of solid limestone, and that it turned the water into a crevice, or cave, big enough to contain the water's flow. This point of view was said to agree with the ideas of best authorities.

Baled hay was being used at the Fire House crevice to hold the earth and to keep it from sliding. Its use by engineers was explained as follows:

"Baled hay is cheap, its weight is known exactly; sufficient iron, old castings of little value, is placed on it to make it heavier than water and sink it to the mouth of the crevice, which (in this instance) is about five feet wide at that point, and it will hold back the earth that will otherwise slide."

A derrick was used to handle the hay. Frame work was to be put in after the hay had fulfilled its purpose.

Two additional members of the U. S. Geological Survey, Edward Martin Kindle and a Mr. Roundly, came to see what was going on. They had been working at Woodstock, and hearing about the Staunton problem, became interested in it. Mr. Kindle's opinion was that at one time the valley here was a large sink hole which gradually filled with marl and clay from surrounding hills, thus cutting off the escape of water. Now, for some cause unknown, the bottom had dropped out.

Water in the crevasse stood at the same level as that in the well of the Ice Company, but the company pumps were clogged with muck. The city manager received permission from the company to clean them and to use them to see whether the water level in the crevasse could be affected by pumping.

A crack in the south wall of the Wilson house between the windows caused Mr. Partlow to build extra support at the corner nearest the chasm. Considerable work, likewise, had to be done at the Todd house. Builder Partlow, recognizing a golden opportunity when it came his way, determined to capitalize on the curiosity of the hundreds of visitors attracted to the site, and make some quick profits. *The Dispatch and News* put it this way:

"The work at the Todd house went on all day (Tuesday, August 16) and a new feature was added by Mr. Partlow. He strengthened his foot bridge, opened the way, and got permission to allow a limited number of persons to go at one time on the bridge and view the depth of

the chasm. This proved a paying venture, because it was all 'easy money.' It did not interfere with his workmen and required no additional outlay. He stationed a crier at the point where persons left the street, and in true show fashion, he announced the 'show.'

" 'Oh, yes, step quickly now and see the cavern—only chance to view this wonderful freak of nature—only ten cents, one dime—step quick—all who have viewed it pass out to admit others—hurry, hurry, hurry!' "

Mr. Partlow put two stays of timber, about six by ten inches, from the solid rock sides which wall up the sluice, or entrance, for the subterranean water. A representative of *The Dispatch*, who viewed the scene, witnessed a workman with a hammer strike the rock on each side of the crevice, and the resulting answer was unmistakable as to the rock's solidity. With such support under it, the Todd house seemed assured of being saved. By Wednesday, August 17, water at the cave's entrance measured 22 feet from the surface. Partlow's workmen built a raft on which to stand as they continued their salvaging efforts. Foundations for concrete piers to sustain the house were under construction.

Exaggerated stories, disseminated by highly imaginative reporting on the part of over-zealous members of visiting newspaper staffs, provoked local citizens no end. Witness the sentiments following from *The Dispatch*:

"So quiet was The Cave-In on yesterday that we hardly felt we had one.

"Had a certain Mr. Yoder, who purports to have come here to make an authentic and 'truthful' report to *The Washington Times* of conditions, been on hand, he would hardly have heard any rumblings, unless they had come from the outraged citizens of Staunton, who are deeply indignant at his statements, his lack of facts, and fertility of imagination."

Yoder's name is not attached to the story now to be quoted. The piece well illustrates that which riled our local citizens. It bore a Staunton dateline of August 14.

"Staunton and local towns are wrought up to a pitch of excitement never before equalled here over alarming conditions that have followed the caving-in of the earth and the disappearance of three houses in gaping holes that this morning showed signs of stretching under the United States Post Office Building, the Second Presbyterian Church, and a score of the most costly residences along North Lewis Street.

Despite the reports of the experts that the caving-in may not extend beyond the present break, additional rumblings of the earth, and almost continuous avalanches of surrounding earth, trees, and portions of Professor's Wilson's home, which hangs directly over a yawning crevice

several hundred feet away, caused authorities to decide today to employ dynamite in an effort to tear away all loose portions of ground.

"This drastic action was ordered by the Town Council following a report on the alarming conditions made by Chief of Police Lipscomb, whose attention was called to today's continued activities of the shifting ground by wealthy North Lewis Street residents, who are so stirred up over the situation that this morning they began to move their belongings from their homes.

"It is conceded by the experts who made a final examination today that the Fire Engine House, the front part of which juts over a hole where bottomless water can be seen 200 feet below the surface of the street, is virtually doomed, and that even the passing and repassing of thousands of curious spectators, who have come here from surrounding country, may jar the entire building into the cavern.

"The curious crowds grow to such proportions with each arriving train that Chief Lipscomb today was compelled to swear in 50 or more deputies in order to keep the more daring from walking out over the condemned portions, which literally hung by a thread. These strips of condemned grounds extend in some places several hundred feet on either side of the main crevices.

"Because of the danger to the school house, which is a five story brick building, containing about 30 rooms, the attention of the officials was centered there about 11 o'clock.

"Absence of any solid rock foundation directly across the hole where the engine house is located, leads to the belief that there may be trouble at the first heavy rain. In this direction, less than 1200 yards away, stands the Mary Baldwin Seminary for Girls, one of the most exclusive institutions of its kind in the South. The buildings were recently erected at a cost of more than \$250,000.

"Opinions as to the cause of the disturbance vouchsafed by some of the older residents here are at variance with opinions of the experts. It is claimed that beneath the City of Staunton and the surrounding country there are innumerable caverns, thought to be extensions of Luray Caverns, which are 15 miles northeast of here."

In rebuttal to this remarkable article, *The Dispatch and News* made pertinent answer:

"Three houses have not disappeared, only one small frame building has fallen and the kitchen of another; and three others only, so far as known, are damaged. None of these has fallen."

As to the "drastic action" relating to the use of dynamite, it declared: "Nothing could be much further from the truth. Two small charges of dynamite were used to blow off some hard edges of the street which hung over. These charges were not exploded in the rear of the Post Office Building, but a block away."

As to the Fire House crevice and the danger of that building being jarred into it, the paper stated:

"The water is only 34 feet below the surface, and it is not bottomless. There is little fear of the crowds jarring the earth."

As to Staunton's police force, the following statement was made:

"Policeman Lipscomb has never sworn in fifty or more deputies. The town has only seven policemen, and the chief and only some half dozen men are employed to relieve the regular force. Persons have been coming, and such exaggerated reports as the above have brought them, and they have been poorly paid for their trip in so far as seeing the town going to its doom is concerned."

As to the primary school building, it was maintained that:

"The school building has never been considered in danger by anyone who was competent to judge conditions. It is only two and one-half stories high, and contains only about twenty rooms, and has been a subject of little solicitude for several days."

Concerning Mary Baldwin and the Luray Caverns, these words were written:

"The Mary Baldwin Seminary stand on a limestone hill far away from the low lying land where the trouble is, and on foundations as firm as Gibraltar. Luray Caverns are 50 miles away, and Massanutten Mountain, 250 feet high, intervenes between these caves and Staunton. Such stuff as that report contains is so unreliable, that we are surprised that reputable papers published it without asking for confirmation. The truth was so easily obtainable."

The Cave-In caused questions to be raised in regard to the stability of Staunton's underlying foundation. Would concerned parents from a distance continue to send their daughters and sons to Staunton's private schools? Would prospective newcomers shy away from the community in fear of the repetition of like disasters?

W. W. King, business manager at Mary Baldwin, reported receiving one inquiry only, and it was not at all concerned with the safety factor. Idle gossip, spoken in jest, however, was credited by *The Dispatch* to have frightened away at least one would-be resident. The story goes like this:

A North Carolina man came to Staunton to buy a bluegrass farm, spent a long day viewing likely properties, returned to town at night hungry and tired, and went to the real estate man's club for drinks and dinner. As they waited to be served, the visitor overheard the conversation of a party of gentlemen at a nearby table. The Cave-In was the subject under discussion. One jovial soul spoke jokingly about the great changes Staunton was about to undergo, since it was no longer an inland town, but a seaport, with a river capable of floating the largest battle-

ships; while underneath was an inland sea with water of unknown depth. Whereupon, on hearing such things, the prospective land-buyer asked his host to excuse him. He departed unceremoniously, did not come back for food or drink, and hurriedly caught an outbound train for home. A letter came to the real estate man a short time later, thanking him for his courtesies, and adding that he, the prospective buyer, "had no desire to live near an ocean port, nor one where there was a fathomless sea beneath."

The Fire House, first ordered to be torn down, had been partly dismantled before the order was countermanded. Its remains were removed by burning them down a week later.

The Smith Fuel and Ice Company's well, after steady pumping, now went dry.

Boring of test holes along Lewis Street by Sam Elsay, colored man, continued.

Consternation mounted when it was observed that trees in the school yard were withering. There was growing apprehension as to the cause. Mrs. John Hanger, who lived next to the school on Lewis Street, set uneasy minds at rest when she recalled seeing the trees blown over in a recent wind storm. The school janitor had propped them back into normal position, but their roots had been damaged by the experience.

By August 21, authorities were satisfied that the weighted-down baled-hay had done its work satisfactorily, and test borings on Lewis Street were discontinued.

In its reporting the *Dispatch and News* had numbered the sink at the Fire House as No. 1, the sink at the Balsley House as No. 2, and at the Todd House as No. 3. No. 1 was situated entirely on city property, and a great deal of No. 2 was city owned, also, while No. 3 was on private property. Repair work on No. 1 and No. 2, therefore, was undertaken by city work forces, while the No. 3 sink on the Wilson property was cared for by Mr. Partlow.

In Sink No. 2, a truss was installed with radiating arms to the sides of the crevasse, at the ends of which were boards to brace the walls. This sink was worked on first because its walls tended to cave-in. At the Wilson property Partlow's men were now pouring concrete.

City workmen tackled the Fire House sink on August 24, encouraged by the fact that neither it, nor the one at the Balsley House had water in them. This was explained by the fact that when Partlow's men pumped water from Sink No. 3, water from No. 1 and No. 2 was lowered by flowing into No. 3. Concrete work continued at the Wilson Property.

The *Richmond News-Leader* carried a provocative article on August 26:

"The situation in Staunton, where the surface of the earth has been torn agape as if by violent seismic disturbances, is causing more alarm in that city than the news dispatches sent out would indicate, according to Clarence L. Gunst, of the firm of Straus and Gunst, who has just returned to the city, after spending several days in Staunton.

" 'Geological experts from all points of the compass seem to have been attracted to the town,' said Mr. Gunst this afternoon. 'These scientific gentlemen have been making investigations along geodetic lines, and are apparently keeping to themselves the exact result of what they have discovered.'

" 'To the unscientific it would appear that the geologists, who have taken such a profound interest in the situation at Staunton, are gathering data for scientific articles for the magazines. At any rate, they are not giving the local authorities, or the general public, the benefit of their discoveries, if they have made any.' "

The Staunton paper's reply was this:

"That any investigation has been going on along 'geodetic lines' is news to everybody. Geodesy, to which geodetic pertains, is surveying, so as to make maps and plat the earth in large surfaces. There would be as much reason to proceed along 'geodetic lines' as to make astronomical observations in order to ascertain the causes of the slip.

"To the 'unscientific,' of which Mr. Gunst seems one, except in misstating facts, many things may occur, but it has not occurred to any scientists sent here by the government, or any other one who is worth the name, to prepare articles of a 'scientific' character for magazines on this occurrence. This statement, therefore, is pure fiction.

" 'Again,' says the gentleman who has so imposed on the 'stampede' portion of the *News-Leader's* staff:

" 'This cause of the sudden opening of the earth in Staunton's streets remains as much a mystery as when the first sensational discovery was made. Men who have watch the geologists closely are of the opinion that science is baffled for the present, at least, and that this accounts for the absence of a definite and positive statement from the scientists as to the cause of the phenomenon.' "

The *Dispatch* replied:

"The cause has been known almost from the first. The moving cause is simply a small underground stream which has found an emptying point in a cave in one of our hills. It cut a tunnel and the top of the tunnel fell in. Just as a sewer might do at any time, especially a leaky sewer, only the sewer would not be on so large a scale.

" 'Again,' says that 'scientific' Baron Munchhausen:

" 'I have seen no account published of an incident that caused a scare in the town last Saturday. Local engineers were making soundings

of the large rents in the earth. Near the post office building are two wide fissures, into one of these a six-foot crowbar, attached to a long cable, was dropped.

"The man making the soundings let the cable slip. Down went the crowbar, dragging the cable after it. In a flash all had disappeared. Hours of snatching failed to reach the crowbar. This circumstance, apparently indicating a bottomless hole, in the start occasioned general alarm. The local civil engineers, expert mining engineers, and the scientific gentlemen engaged in geodetic probing are apparently at a loss to explain not only the cause of the earth's downing, but the extent of the phenomenon and the measure of the danger that attends it."

The reply:

"The reason he has not seen an account published of the above 'incident' is because it never occurred. There are no fissures near the post office. They are a square away. The government drilled about the post office and ascertained that it is founded upon a rock, as firm and stable as the mountains about us."

Optimism prevailed that the disaster's worst had ended. And so it proved to be, although hope took a setback on the morning of August 28. A fourth sinkhole occurred in the front yard of the Jacob Yost property, adjacent to the Second Presbyterian Church, on Lewis Street's west side. The opening was approximately 10 feet square. Again Lewis Street was closed to traffic, again test borings were made, and Builder Partlow again was engaged to make repairs. Fortunately, pessimistic fears never came to realization, and repair work as needed moved forward expeditiously.

School opening was rapidly approaching. Could—or would—the Baldwin Street School be used for the coming session? While engineers said the building was entirely safe, the city fathers and school board would take no chances. The safety of the children was the chief concern. Decisions that were made appeared in a special communication from the Superintendent of Schools, J. P. Neff, as found in the *Dispatch and News* for September 3:

FOR SAFETY OF CHILDREN
SCHOOL WILL BE HELD IN MAIN STREET
BUILDING TEMPORARILY

"A statement of the plans for the coming session of the City public schools seems due the patrons of the schools. At a meeting of the School Board held September first, the following plan was adopted for the present: All the pupils of the white schools will be taught in the Main Street building. The carpenter shop and physical and chemical laboratories will be vacated to accommodate more of the pupils: and every effort will be made to make the children comfortable. The first

and second grades will run on regular schedule, as will also those above and including the fifth grade. The third and fourth grades will have half-day sessions; some coming at 8:45 and leaving at 12:15, others coming at 12:30 and leaving at 4.

"The only congestion that will occur will be at the morning recess and that will be managed as judiciously and as carefully as possible. It may be possible to give the primary children recess at a different time from the other children. In this way the congestion will be avoided. If all the children have recess at the same time, extra monitors will be on duty and every precaution will be used to insure recreation without trouble and danger. The primary children will occupy the lower floor in the main building and will be protected from the larger children while at recess, if they have recess at the same time. Only the regular all day pupils will be present at the noon recess.

"This is not an experiment with me in my past experience; I have had to adopt this same plan of doubling up sessions and making one building serve for two. The results are very much more satisfactory than would be supposed. The teachers will do intensive work for the pupils who are here for only the half day, and they will emphasize the essentials so that the children will make good progress."

(signed) J. P. Neff

When school opened on September 8, 735 white pupils were enrolled and 242 black. Of the pupils at the Main Street school, 120 were newly enrolled. High school pupils numbered 92. The writer was one of the newly enrolled. He was a member of Miss Alvernon Maxwell's afternoon first grade class, from 12:30 to 3:00 P.M. Miss Annie Fallon served as principal of the primary school.

At a meeting of the City Council, September 6, it was reported that the cave-in holes had been shored up, that a shaft had been sunk in Sink No. 1 to within two feet of solid rock, that the condition of the repair work was satisfactory, and that the cost of damages was not as great as first anticipated. About \$1,000 had been expended: \$600 for labor and the balance for materials, \$300 worth of which were still available for use. By September 17 the Council heard that \$5,000 would be needed to arch over in concrete chasms No. 1 and No. 2, while an added \$5,000 would be required to protect the area involved on Lewis Street and adjacent to the Baldwin Street school. A bond issue was recommended, and this was approved by Common Council on September 19, and by the Board of Alderman on September 22.

Thereupon, the work of restoration moved forward briskly. Rails were laid on Baldwin Street to tie in with the trolley tracks on Lewis so that earth could be dumped from special cars right into the chasms. The *Dispatch* for September 29 tells the story:

"The Blue Ridge Light and Power Company is engaged in moving their tracks at the corner of Lewis and Baldwin Streets so as to throw them into Baldwin from North Lewis, down which street they will be continued to about the end of the school house yard. This marks another period in cave-in repair. Through the supervision of General Manager Ashburner and the special committee in charge of this work, the arching of these openings between the rocks is nearly complete, and changing the car tracks is being done in order that earth, which will come from Mayor Wayt's property on Churchville Avenue, may be hauled by rail directly from where it is procured to the cave-ins, where it will be dumped from cars constructed for this purpose, and which will thus save frequent handling.

"In selecting an engineer for general manager of the city, the city fathers displayed a degree of wisdom that was fortunate. In selecting one that was especially versed in general concrete construction, this was doubly so. Mr. J. C. Child, of note as a mining engineer in the West Virginia coal fields, is but one of several who has endorsed the method whereby the gentleman in charge is using every endeavor to restore Baldwin Street to its normal condition. Others of fame in the engineering world are Mr. Sidney B. Williamson, chief engineer of the Western Division of the Panama Canal, who was a visitor in the city recently, and Mr. Lancaster, engineer for the Hudson-Manhattan tunnels under the Hudson River at New York, and, next to the Panama Canal, probably one of the most difficult feats of engineering ever performed in this hemisphere.

"Another point of interest is that Staunton's cave-in marked a new departure from the regular course of events that confront engineers. In this unfortunate occurrence, Staunton produced something original, something with which possibly no other engineer has had to contend. There was no ready made method to apply for a case of this kind, so an original one had to be devised; and, we must say, it seems equal in effectiveness to any that could have been adopted."

A HISTORY OF MOUNT SOLON

James Howard Wooddell

The village of Mount Solon, in northwestern Augusta County, developed around a crossroad, just east of what is known as Castle Hill, and south of the Natural Chimneys. One road goes north toward what was once the village of Stokesville, called the North River Gap road, and south to Staunton. The other goes west past Mt. Zion Church and east toward the site of the village of Mossy Creek. The first known landowner in the area was David Davis, who was patented 400 acres at the head of the Mossy Creek on February 12, 1742. James Humphrey, another original landowner, obtained 400 acres on June 5, 1747, that ran along David Davis' line and touched a pine on top of Castle Hill. His brother, William, was patented a 400 acre tract on the south side of Castle Hill on June 25, 1747. Robert Gregg, who obtained a 400-acre grant along the Staunton road from Castle Hill on June 1, 1782, sold it to Frederick Michael in 1788. Upon his death, it was inherited by his sons, who sold most of it to the McCue family, who were among the early settlers.

The first structures known to have existed near the crossroad, were a log store and a mill, built about 1799, by James Cochran. A small log house was built across the road east of the mill and occupied by Andrew Decker, who had lived earlier in Bedford County. His daughter Rebecca, was the mother of John F. Hottel, a long-time resident of the village. Cochran sold his property to brothers John and Christian Landes who put up a distillery south of the dam and a saw mill on the north side of the other mill. The Landes brothers sold their property to William Cave about 1818. Shortly thereafter, the mills were destroyed by fire, and Cave had them rebuilt. James Frazier of Jennings Gap built a store north of the mill, and hired John H. Bell to run it. Bell and Benami Irvine, sons-in-law of Cave, bought out Frazier, sometime after 1821. Jacob Daggy started a tanyard along the creek, below the mill, in the 1820s.

The Mt. Solon post office was established on May 5, 1835 at the Stevens and Blakemore store, with Henry Blakemore as the first postmaster. Blakemore, who had held the same position at Miller's Iron Works, Mossy Creek, formed a partnership that spring with Edward Stevens of Rockingham County, and purchased the Bell and Irvine store. Blakemore remained the postmaster until his death in 1860, when he was followed by his widow, Elizabeth. The post office was discontinued in 1861 when Virginia seceded from the Union, and was reopened on February 9, 1866, again with Elizabeth Blakemore in charge. She was followed by a son-in-law, Jeremiah W. Hall.

Dr. William McCue was the first physician at Mt. Solon. A brother of James A. McCue, he was located one-half mile south of the village, but was living in Rockbridge County by 1818. Dr. Clement Rush Harris was physician for about 15 years, from as early as 1842, when he

was 30 years old. Some of the local residents read medicine under him. George Henry Blakemore, a son of Henry, was believed the first in 1842, but he died shortly thereafter. James T. Clarke read under Dr. Harris from 1853 until 1856. Clarke attended one course of lectures at the Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia in 1856-57, and upon his return to Mt. Solon, had the practice of Dr. Harris thrust upon him, apparently when he moved from the village. Dr. Clarke's practice became so extensive as to cover some 44 square miles, that he never had time to take a second course of lectures. John L. Blakemore, a son of George, who had previously been a Lutheran and then a Methodist minister, also became a physician sometime prior to 1860.

Dr. Harris purchased the Mt. Solon Mill in the 1840s, and Elias G. Brewer and Isaac Rogers ran it for him. John Howell Blakemore made note of the fact that a leak developed in the mill dam on July 31, 1853, which was a common occurrence, and he and several other men were hired by Dr. Harris to repair it that day, despite the fact that it was a Sunday. Dr. Harris sold the mill and some 50 acres adjacent to it in 1854, for \$12,000, to Dr. E. R. Moorman of Mt. Sidney and John J. Cupp of Rockland Mills, who ran it.

The Jacob Daggy tanyard, along the creek between the crossroad and Blue Hole, had numerous owners in the 1800s. Daggy sold it to Abraham Hanna, a sawyer, from Mt. Solon. Prior to his death in 1864, he deeded it to Mansfield Marshall, who was a pumpmaker. The next owner was John Vigar, a farmer who lived in Rockingham County. J. E. Bolen, the merchant, obtained it from the Vigar heirs on November 1, 1887. Bolen lived in a brick house on the property, and Delaney Bruin operated the tanyard.

Joseph Shue was perhaps the first blacksmith to work in Mt. Solon. He built a small log dwelling and shop sometime in the 1830s, but later was on the Mossy Creek road. Abraham Beaver was in business prior to 1849, at the end of a lane, on the west side of the North River Gap road, followed by his sons, John W. and Franklin P. Beaver. John Walton had a blacksmith shop on the road to Mt. Zion, afterward run by his son, George W. William Jordan and Joseph Messersmith were wagonmakers. Jordan, in business prior to 1848, was on the bend of the Staunton road, and was succeeded by his stepson John W. Hopewell, who also made agricultural implements. George W. Barger and Reuben Bryan were saddlemakers. Bryan moved to Mossy Creek and from there to Sangerville. Henry Harman was the cooper, followed by his son, George W., who later moved to Mossy Creek. J. Morgan Hogshead was the pumpmaker for more than 30 years from prior to 1849. Adam Orebaugh and Jackson Stitzer were the cabinetmakers. William R. Witts, a chairmaker, was in the village from as early as 1853, until his death in 1888.

George Wesley Blakemore, who had apprenticed under Peter Irick in Harrisonburg and married one of his daughters, Charles Anderson, and John L. McGuffin had tailoring shops. John Howell Blakemore was in partnership with both Anderson and McGuffin. Margaret Anderson was a dressmaker. The tailors would make regular buying trips to Baltimore to purchase their material. There were as many as three shoemakers' shops in Mt. Solon at one time. George M. Blakemore opened one in 1850, and his brother, John F., worked for him for a while. They were nephews of the tailor, George W. Blakemore. Others were James R. Fifer and R. E. Stoutamyer. J. F. Hottel owned a shop, but was not known to have worked in the trade. George Jordan was a shoemaker on the road to Mt. Zion.

The household expense book of Mrs. Martha M. Clarke, dated May 1st 1852, gives her cost, at the time, for the essentials for a new wardrobe, not counting the tailoring expense for making the suit:

	SUIT CLOTHES	\$ cts.
Coat	3 yds @ 133 1/3	4.00
"	Trimmings 100	1.00
Vest	To 1 yd & trimmings	1.50
Pants	To 2 1/2 yds @ 133 1/3	3.00
Hat	To 1 hat 100	1.00
	To 1 pr shoes	1.50
	To 2 Bosoms @ 25	0.50
	" " Hankerchiefs @ 12 1/2	0.25
	To 1 Bon collar	0.15
	" " cravat	0.10
	" 5 yds cotten @ 20	1.00
	To 5 yds Brown Cotten 15 cts	0.75
		<hr/> 14.75

Numerous merchants were in business in Mt. Solon. The partnership of Edward Stevens and Henry Blakemore, where the Mt. Solon post office was opened in 1835, lasted for some five years. Stevens died prior to March 12, 1840. Henry Blakemore, then entered into an equal partnership with his brother George, and the firm continued business as H & G Blakemore, until George died around May 1844. James T. Clarke, who married Martha, a daughter of Henry Blakemore, in 1845, operated the store as James T. Clarke and Co., for about five years from around 1848. As early as 1859, it was in the hands of J. E. Bolen. After Bolen built a new store, on the site of the old Odd Fellows Hall around 1880, the partnership of merchant Charles Duvall and Richard H. Buckner, a local farmer, opened, in what is believed to have been, the old Blakemore store, next to Henry's house. David McFall owned and operated a store, at the time of his death, in 1854. Henry Messersmith

and Samuel Cootes were also merchants. There were five store buildings in Mt. Solon in 1884, but only three were occupied.

Perhaps the most notable event in the history of Mt. Solon, occurred, during a three-day period, when General Stonewall Jackson rested his troops, after the Battle of McDowell. The army reached Mt. Solon late on the afternoon of Saturday, May 17, 1862. The main body camped around Castle Hill, while the advance troops stretched almost all of the way to Bridgewater. As a correspondent was later to write in the *Harrisonburg Register*, "Every door and heart was opened, and tables filled for their reception, free of charge." She also reported "He (Gen. Jackson) and his staff were invited to make their headquarters at the home of Maj. J. M. McCue. He politely declined the proffered kindness, preferring the hard, damp earth where his soldiers lay . . ." However, Jackson and his staff dined that evening with Major McCue at his home.

Edward A. Moore, a private in the Rockbridge Artillery, was to recall that they had camped in a beautiful meadow. After settling down, he borrowed Sergeant Gregory's one-eyed horse to go foraging. He ate supper at the home of a family of German descent. They sent him back to camp after dark, with a ham between him and the saddle, a bucket of butter dangling from one arm, and a box of pies from the other. The one-eyed horse stumbled and fell with his nose to the ground. When the horse had recovered and returned to his feet, Moore said that his provisions had not slipped one inch, as he had let the horse look out for himself.

Major General Richard S. Ewell, meanwhile, was encamped with his army near Gordonsville. Ewell had been receiving conflicting orders during the previous month and decided, on his own, to meet with Gen. Jackson at Mt. Solon. After a long night's ride, he arrived shortly after daylight on Sunday, May 18. Ewell located Jackson and the two retired to the Mt. Solon mill to discuss the situation before church services began. At the conclusion of the meeting, Jackson asked Ewell to draw up a list of the conflicting orders he had received and then the following letter was drafted.

Headquarters Valley District
Mount Solon
May 18, 1862

Major Gen. R. S. Ewell
Commanding Third Division
Army of the Peninsula:
General:

Your letter of this date, in which you state that you have received letters from Generals Lee, Johnson and myself requiring somewhat different movements, and desiring my views respecting your position, has been received. In reply I would state that as you are

in the Valley District you constitute part of my command. Should you receive orders different from those sent from these headquarters, please advise me of the same at as early a period as practicable.

You will please move your command so as to encamp between New Market and Mount Jackson on next Wednesday night, unless you receive orders from a superior officer and that of a date subsequent to the 16th instant.

I am, General, your obedient servant,

T. J. Jackson
Major General

The army left, and began moving northward, on the morning of Monday, May 19. However, on the next Friday, May 23, a terrific hail storm struck the Mt. Solon area causing more destruction than Gen. Jackson's army. Grain was cut down as if by a reaper, gardens were desolated, window glass was broken, green fruit was knocked off trees and their branches were left hanging.

The call to arms at the outbreak of the Civil War, brought a quick response from the Mt. Solon area. A company of volunteer infantry, called the "Ready Rifles," was organized in April 1861. O. F. Grinnan was the first Captain, but he resigned shortly thereafter because of illness, and was replaced by E. L. Curtis. They were mustered into service on May 11, 1861, as Co. I, 5th Virginia Regiment. They were among the first five regiments to form the 1st or Stonewall Brigade. Only one-third of the 64 men in this company went through the war without being listed on the rolls of the killed and wounded. Private James W. Rogers, a member of the "Ready Rifles," died at the home of his father, Andrew B. Rogers, near Mt. Solon, on November 29, 1862, of wounds received in the Second Battle of Manassas on August 28. Company D of the 52d Virginia Regiment was recruited in the summer of 1861 in Staunton. Joseph F. Hottel of Mt. Solon, served as a Captain. Private Abraham A. Hanna, a son of Abraham Hanna, the sawyer in Mt. Solon, died from wounds received in the Battle of Spottsylvania, May 8, 1864. John R. Blakemore, a son of Henry J., was also killed in the war. He was the grandson of George Blakemore and Joseph F. Hottel. Captain E. L. Curtis, who was wounded while serving with the "Ready Rifles," was living in the village in 1884.

Alonzo F. Stover returned to Mt. Solon on August 6, 1865, after an absence of ten years, and on his first day as a clerk in the J. E. Bolen store, recorded on the pages of an old ledger that "there is in Mt. Solon at this date one store, one Mill, one Tanyard, one Saddler's shop, one Cooper shop, three shoemaker shops, two blacksmith shops, one wagonmaker's shop."

William H. Parry was teaching a school in Mt. Solon in 1867 and 1868. The tuition was \$1.74 for one session. The teachers living in the village in 1880 were John Harrison; James A. McFall, a son of David;

and Irene Hottel, a daughter of J. F., who had graduated from the Valley Normal School in Bridgewater. She married local merchant Richard Buckner, Jr. By 1884, public education had come to Mt. Solon, and there was a public negro school No. 10 on the road to Mossy Creek and school No. 10 for white students near the bend of the Staunton road. James T. Clarke, Jr. was a music teacher from the 1880s until the 1930s. A graduate of Peabody School of Music in Baltimore, he taught at the Mossy Creek Academy, gave private lessons in Mt. Solon, and was trained as a piano tuner as well as a teacher. His father purchased a bandstand from an unknown location prior to 1884 and had it moved to his property, at the bottom of the hill, below his house. It was converted into a bungalow, where the younger Clarke lived and taught.

In February 1880, a meeting was held at the Mt. Solon Methodist Church, with the Rev. C. W. Kinser presiding, for "the purpose of taking some action toward the erection of a more comfortable house of worship at a more acceptable point in the village." A building committee was named of John W. Hopewell, Chairman; Dr. James T. Clarke, Secretary; J. E. Bolen, Treasurer; George C. Fifer and Hamilton B. McFall. A new church was built on the east side of the Staunton road, south of the crossroad, between what had been the property of Capt. David McFall and that of George M. Blakemore, both families being members of the congregation. The new church was dedicated on May 28, 1882. The old log church on the Mossy Creek road was used to house negro public school No. 10.

Dr. James T. Clarke was the primary physician for the residents of Mt. Solon, from the period of the Civil War, until the early 1900s. His residence, the original part of which was made of log, was located on the hill overlooking the mill pond. He saw his patients in a small room on the second floor of his house. Dr. Clarke was Regimental Surgeon on Col. W. H. Harmon's staff in 1860, and was detailed at Manassas and several other points as Assistant Surgeon during the Civil War. He was elected a Fellow of the State Medical Society of Virginia in 1903. One of his sons also became a physician. Pleasant Henry Clarke read medicine under his father for several years, then attended the University of Virginia and Bellevue Medical College in New York City where he graduated. Dr. P. H. Clarke first settled in West Virginia, where he entered private practice. He served as Supt. of the State Insane Asylum in Athens, Ohio, for about a year, then returned to private practice. He died in Ohio in 1881.

John J. Cupp ran the Mt. Solon Mill for almost 40 years. From the beginning, wagons filled with grain from as far away as Pendleton County, West Virginia, would be brought to the mill. While the owners waited for it to be processed, they shopped in the local stores. Byron



Abandoned Mt. Solon Mill

(Photo by Roy T. Stephenson)



A photograph of the residence of Dr. James T. Clarke (at the left on the hill), with the music studio of James T. Clarke, Jr. (at the right, in the foreground) erected ca 1882.

Blakemore, who married a daughter of J. E. Bolen, purchased the mill in 1893 from the John J. Cupp estate, installed modern milling machinery, and sold it to his father, Andrew J. Blakemore, in 1896.

When the railroad came to Mt. Solon, it brought renewed life to the village. The Chesapeake and Western Railroad Company completed a 14 mile extension of its system, from Bridgewater to North River Gap in the early part of April 1902, with depots at Mossy Creek, Mt. Solon, and Stokesville. The Mt. Solon depot was located on the east side of the Staunton road, south of the bend. It was managed by Harry Hopewell, a son of John W., and after his death by his wife, Gertrude. The Mt. Solon post office is now located on the site. Other businesses sprang up around the depot. The Planters Bank, state chartered, was founded shortly thereafter, by local residents. A bank building was constructed on the road near the depot. W. B. Todd was the first cashier, followed by Zeb Miller. Theodore Craun was the last cashier before a merger with a bank in Bridgewater in the 1930s saw the office close. Edward Hogshead, a son of Morgan, manufactured automobile chains during the 1920s, in a building near the depot and bank. Emory Michael had a creamery near the depot from before 1930. He also made ice. It was destroyed by fire in the latter part of the 1930s and was never rebuilt. Mr. Flippo owned a general store across from the bank, dating from the early 1900s. He was followed at that location by Ray Kiracofe and Alec Michael. Bryan Furr owned it during the 1960s selling antiques and used furniture.

The remainder of the businesses could be found near the mill. The mill itself, was purchased by Staton A. Stover, of Rockingham County in 1902, from the Andrew J. Blakemore estate. He was also on the board of the Planters Bank. John W. Tolliver operated a store from the early 1900s on the corner next door to the mill. The post office, that was also located there, was moved as early as 1937, to the old bank building near the depot. Jim Todd used to show movies in the 1920s in the old Bolen store on the first floor of the Odd Fellows Hall, that was vacant at the time. The store was later reopened by Jack Messersmith, who was also the local undertaker. After his death, it was operated by his widow. Maggie Blakemore was living in the old Henry Blakemore residence in the 1920s. Her son moved to Staunton, where he ran Bryan's Department Store under the town clock. Mrs. Benjamin I. Kiracofe was operating the small store next to the Blakemore home, that had been the Buckner and Duvall partnership in the latter 1800s.

John William Carson owned a garage on the hill at the corner of the North River Gap and Mossy Creek roads prior to 1920. It was owned by Harold Hosaflook in the 1930s. He razed the old store between his property and that of the Henry Blakemore family and replaced it with a

new store and service station. The Mt. Solon telephone company was established in the early 1900s, and was located in a residence on the north side of the Mossy Creek road several houses from the corner. Jesse R. Carson moved into Mt. Solon in 1919 to work for his father at the garage. His wife, Lillian went to work as a switchboard operator at the telephone company, and was later the manager. Irma Furr was the manager in the 1940s. Automated telephone equipment was installed around 1970. There were several saloons in Mt. Solon before prohibition, but their locations are not known.

Several physicians located in Mt. Solon in the 1900s. Dr. Paul Burton was the first. He lived in a residence in front of the depot and had his office in a small building along the road. Dr. Clarke died in 1911. Dr. Brumbach purchased the residence next door to Dr. Clarke from John W. Cupp, and had his office in a small building next to the house. Dr. Hamilton was in Mt. Solon in the early 1930s. He lived across from the church and had an office in his house. After Dr. Hamilton left, the residents went to Dr. B. H. Beydler, Dr. Foster and Dr. Koontz in Bridgewater.

The Mt. Solon Methodist Church formed a new building committee in 1908, for the purpose of an extensive remodeling program. Named were: Dr. James T. Clarke, Chairman, O. B. Harman, Mrs. V. B. Kerr and Mrs. A. T. Reeves. The firm of Dovel and Thuma in Bridgewater, owned by J. S. Dovel and Jack Thuma, was hired to do the work. A new bell tower was erected, the roof was rebuilt to a more desirable pitch, the pulpit was recessed to increase the seating capacity, and new pews and altar railing were installed. On the 22nd of August 1909, the Rev. Mr. Hinvom, a circuit pastor, assisted by the Rev. Mr. Kerns from Staunton, held a Sunday meeting, in an effort to raise the remainder of the money needed to pay for the improvements. A public dinner was held on the banks of the Mossy Creek, adjacent to the Church. The Rev. Mr. Kerns delivered two eloquent sermons, and the audience was so moved, that they subscribed about \$700 in just eleven minutes. When the meeting was over, more than a thousand dollars had been pledged and contributed. A new church hall was built at a later date across the street from the sanctuary. Thanksgiving Day turkey dinners and other fund-raising events were held there. The building is now a private residence owned by Bryan Furr.

Col. E. T. Brown, who purchased the Natural Chimneys in 1928, also began to promote the Blue Hole in Mt. Solon as a tourist attraction in the 1930s. Located in the village, on the Mossy Creek, below the site of the mill, the Blue Hole is fed by a thermal spring from a considerable depth and the water is first seen coming through a small cave in the side of the hill. Almost three million gallons of water flow from the spring

every day. The Blue Hole gets its name from the color of the water, because of its depth, and has been sounded to 180 feet without touching bottom. Col. Brown enhanced the promotional value by installing lights in the water and building a bridge across the hole.

The efforts of Col. Brown appear to have been the last "hurrah." When the railroad left and the tracks were removed, the business world of Mt. Solon began a process of dismantling itself. The village reached its peak in the latter part of the 1800s and just after the turn of the century. When one passes through Mount Solon today, he sees only the traces of what was, for 150 years, a thriving center of business activity. The store buildings stand empty, the mill has been torn down and its pond is an open field, a large depression in the earth, with a small stream patiently making its way down one side. Many of the beautiful homes are still there, scattered along the hillsides, and spaced beside the roads, but the centers of activity today are a post office, a church, and a veterans' hall.

Sources:

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- Blakemore Family Genealogy. Dr. James T. Clarke. (unpublished)
- Clarke Family Genealogy. Dr. James T. Clarke. (unpublished)
- Diary of John Howell Blakemore. (unpublished)
- Minutes of the Building Committee, Mt. Solon Methodist Church. (unpub.)

26 Mount Solon April 23rd
 34 A Miller per Henry.
 To 1 bundle 4c 4
 100 South Darnall D.D.
 To 2 oranges 4c 13
 20 William K. Hoots per
 To 1 King Tobacco 13 31
 12 Keith Clarke & Son
 To 4 Hoffa 4c 56
 Daniel Milnes per
 To 1/2 in Ligo 1/6 13
 100 Mr. G. Patton Dr. Dr.
 To 9 gal Syrup — 58
 31 Wm Wooddell Dr. Dr.
 To no oranges — 13
 100 B. Brown Dr. Dr.
 To 8 in Hoffa 4c 107
 100 Henry Harman Dr.
 To 4 in Angus 108 48
 115 Mrs. Bridges Dr.
 To 1 in Hoffa 1/6 26
 59 John Payne Dr.
 To 1/2 in Honey 118 13

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 , Joseph, 1849
 , Miss Julia, 1849
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BEAVER, Abraham, 1849, 1853
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BRANAMAN, Samuel, 1853
BRITTON, James, 1853
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CARSON, Abel, 1853
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 , John (Sherriff), 1850
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GARRISON, Samuel, 1853
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 , A. H., 1853
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 , Elija, 1853
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 , Thomas, 1850
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 , Henry, 1853
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 , Ephriam W., 1853
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 , Joseph, 1853
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TAYLOR, Henning, 1853
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 , Ferdinand (works at Cowgers,
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WALTON, John, 1850, 1853
WETZEL, Revd. H., 1853
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 , Philip, Sr.
 , Phil, Jr.

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ALEXANDER, John

ALLMAN, Harvey
 , James, Sr.
 , Levi
 , Wyatt

ANDERSON, Charles
 , Dorcas
 , James
 , Luther
 , Wm. Jr.

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ANDREW, Abraham
 , Jacob
 , Jewett
 , John H.
 , Madison
 , Nelson
 , Saml.
 , Joseph

ARNOLD, Julian

AYLOR, Anthony

BACK, Capt. Geo. W.
 , George
 , James
 , Roberty

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 , James (on Sam Orbaugh land)
 , Reuben
 , Wm.

BAKER, Frederick

BAKERS & BROWN

BALDWIN, John B.

BARBEE, Joseph S.

BARNET, S. H.

BAXTER, Hugh
 , Jacob
 , Lee
 , Wm.

BAYER, G. W.

BAZZLE, Reuben
 , Mrs.

BEARD, George (miller)
 , G. W.
 , John (Abel Carson)
 , Joseph
 , Joseph (South River)
 , Wm.
 , Wm. Lot

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BEAVER, John

BELL, Alexander
 , D. Alexander
 , James (Coyner)

 , James R.
 , Samuel

BELLE, Saml. of Jack

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BERTINE, G. W.

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BLAIR, Dr. William R.

BLAKEMORE, And. J.
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 , G. W.
 , Henry
 , Jacob
 , Jno. L.
 , J. H.
 , John Jr. of John
 , John W.
 , N. L.
 , Noel B.
 , W. C.
 , Wm of John

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BOLEN, J. E.
 , Mrs. Rebecca

BOWEN, Mrs.

BOWLEN, Harrison

BOYD, A. E.

BRADSHAW, Robert

BRANSON, Malinda

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BRENNEMEN, Saml.
 , Mrs. E.

BRIDGET, James

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BROCK, Miss Elizabeth

BRODT, J. F.

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 , John R.
 , Samuel

BROYLES, W. Y.

BRUIN, Delaney

BRUFFY, Jason

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 , Reuben

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 , James

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 , Silas
 , Wm.

CARL, Randolph

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CARSON, Abell
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 , Frances
 , John
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 , Robt.
 , Thos.
 , Willy of Marg.

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 , Robert

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 , Hatch
 , J. H.
 , James of Hatch
 , James T., Jr.
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 , John N.
 , P. A.
 , Dr. P. S.
 , Thos. B.
 , Wm. F.

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COCHRAN, James
 , John
 , Ella (mulatto)

COFFMAN, Danl. potter
 , Jacob
 , W. S. potter

COOK, Abram
 , Isaac
 , John

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 , Sam. lady

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 , Frederick
 , George, Sr.
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 , John, Sr.
 , John, Jr.
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 , Strod

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 , Baker
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 , Frederick S. est.
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CURTIS, Bud.
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 , Charles
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MOORDOCK, Mrs.

MOORE, George E.

MORRIS, Anson (in mountain)
 , Sidney

MOUBRAY, Wm.
 , Mrs. Wm.

MOWBERRY, Carswell
 , James
 , Joseph

MOYERHEIFFER, Wm.

MOYERS, Jacob
 , McCutcheon of Jac.
 , Peter
 , Sally of Jac.

MULLIN, James

MULLINS, (widow, Reeves Barthemew)

NASH, James

NEFF, Jacob
 , Josiah
 , Widow
 , Wm.

NEHER, Peter

NEWMAN, Mrs. Alex
 , Wm.

NICELY, David
 , Jacob

NICHOLS, Anderson
 , Harrison

OARBAUGH, John

OBAUGH, Adam
 , E. W.
 , G. L.
 , Wm. of Geo.

O'CONNER, Michael

ODER, Waller

OREBAUGH, Cyrus
 , David of Martin
 , Geo. S.
 , James
 , John of Sam.
 , Martin
 , Saml.

PAINTER, Mary

PARR, Newt

PARROT, Jeremiah
 , William

PARRY, Peter

PATTERSON, Solomon

PAUL, Samuel

PAYNE, Jno. D.

PENCE, Noah

PEERY, Andrew
 , David
 , George
 , James

PERRY, Newton

PETERSON, Charles
 , Jos.

PHILIPS, Henry
 , James

PIFER, Jacob
 , James

PINKERTON, Rev. J.

PLEASANT, Polk

PLECHER, Wm.

PLECKER, A. W.
 , Samuel
 , Saml. (heirs)

POLLARD, C. W.

POOL, R. H.

POTTS, Gatewood

PRICE, Christ
 , Isaac
 , John
 , Thos.

PROPE, David
 , Mrs. Joel

PROPS, Joel, Jr.
 , John
 , Mrs. Joel
 , Samuel H.
 , Wm.

PROPT, Cynthia

PUMFREY, Larkin
 , Sally

PULLENS, Paulser

RADER, John

RADNER, Saml.

RALSTON, David
 , Jesse
 , John
 , Wm.

RANDALL, Blakey
 , Danl.
 , Henry

RAULEY, John
 , Nelson
 , Reuben

RANKEN, Isaac

REED, Benj.
 , David
 , Frank
 , John
 , W. A.
 , William

REESE, Fountain

REEVES, Andrew T.
 , Bernard S.
 , Eliza
 , Giles T.
 , John N.
 , Madison
 , Nathan
 , Peachy
 , Polly (Tom)
 , Reuben
 , Thomas, Jr.
 , Thos.
 , Washington

REVERCOMB, Hugh
 , Jno. C.
 , W. C.
 , Wm., Sr.

REYNOLDS, Jeff. (negro)

RICHARDSON, Isaac
 , Rev.

RICHIE, Henry

RIDDLE, A. J.

RIFE, Saml.

RIMEL, George, Jr.
 , John T. of Geo.
 , Revd. Geo.

ROADCAP, George
 , James

ROBERTS, Derret
 , John

ROBIN, G. T.

ROBERTSON, R. H.

ROBINET, John

ROBSON, John

ROBY, Thomas

ROGERS, A. B.
 , A. Jackson
 , C. P.
 , H. M.
 , L. E.
 , Saml.

ROLLER, George
 , P. S.

ROSS, Mike

RUBUSH, Silas

RUCKMAN, James
 , Samuel T.
 , Thos. W.

RUFF, Clarke
 , Danl.
 , Jas. Harvey
 , Jacob
 , John
 , Martin (widow)
 , Mary

RUSMISEL, Andrew
 , Christian
 , George
 , John of Chris.
 , Phil.

SALNAKER, N. H.

SAMUELS, Erasmus,
 , Joseph
 , Shadrack

SANDY, Ammi
 , Anne
 , Peter
 , Reuben

SANGER, Conrad
 , Daniel
 , David
 , Jacob
 , John

SANTAMYER, Wm.

SELLERS, James

SHAFFER, Israel

SHANK, D. (Beaver Creek)
 , Daniel (Ruffs)
 , Jacob

SHAVER, Abram
 , David (Briary Br.)
 , Hester
 , Noah

SEARIGHT & BLOSSER

SHEETS, Fanny
 , Felix T.

SHEFFER, David of John
 , John, Sr.
 , Wm.

SHENK, Gabe

SHEPHERDS

SHEPP, Luther

SHIFFLET, Danl. of Micajah
 , Danl.
 , Harrison
 , Jno. M.

SHIPLET, Frank
 , John
 , Martin L.
 , Wm. Hyden
 , W. L.

SHIPMAN, Jonathan

SHIREY, (Pumfrey house)

SHOEMAKER, John

SHOWALTER, George of Blk. Jac.
 , Harvey
 , Jacob
 , Jac. of Jno.
 , Nimrod
 , Wm.

SHUE, Dan. (at Thomas)
 , Jac. T.
 , John
 , Joseph

SHULL, Danl.
 , George, Jr.
 , George, Sr.
 , Henry
 , James
 , John
 , Marshall
 , Saml.
 , Wm.

SHUMATE, Thomas

SIBERT, Lorenzo

SILLINGS, and Kinney
 , Andrew
 , Geo. F.
 , J. Wm.
 , James R.
 , Mrs. Rebecca
 , Widow A. J.

SIMMONS, Samuel
 , Sol.

SIMPSON, Lieut.

SITES, Price

SKELTON, Elizabeth

SKYLES, Jacob
 , John
 , John (widow)
 , Phebe

SMALLWOOD, F.
 , Henry

SMILEY, Hugh

SMITH, George
 , Harvey
 , John Cutte
 , Mary
 , Mrs. F.
 , Roda Jane
 , Wm.

SNELL, C. R.

SNIDER, Michael
 , Teeny

SNYDER, David
 , Jos.

SOUL, Revd. J.

SPECK, Frederick K.

SPICER, Frank

SPITLER, Jacob (shoemaker)
 , Jacob estate

STAUBUS, A. W.
 , Alex.
 , C. E.
 , Christ., Jr.
 , Christ., Sr.
 , Ginny (Sellers)
 , Jacob
 , Sol.

STITZER, Fielding
 , Jacob

STOCKDALE, William

STOMBAUGH, David

STONER, Martin

STOVER, Elizabeth

STOUTAMOYER, A. & J. (Broth.)
 , Aaron
 , Alexdr.
 , George
 , Hiram
 , Jacob
 , John
 , Moses
 , Reuben
 , Samuel

STRODDER, John of Andy
 , Nancy
 , Wm.

STROTHER, Andy (colored)
 , St. Clair
 , Sam.

STUART, Abraham

STUMP, Capt. J.

SULLIVAN, John
 , Wm. F.

SURBER, Mrs.

SWECKER, J.

SWEENY, Christopher

SWINK, George

SWINKE, Washington

SWISHER, Mrs. Catharine

TAPSCOTT, J. F.

TAYLOR, A. N.
 , Fountain
 , Frank H. (Forrers)
 , Frank, negro (Mohlers)
 , Henning
 , John
 , Jos.

TEAFORD, Cath. (Martin)
 , Jacob
 , John
 , Jno. W.
 , Martin

TEMPLE, Wm.

TERRY, Fulton
 , I. M.

TETER, Jacob

THACKER

THOMAS, Jos. A.
 , W. H.

THUMA, Robert

TIMBERLAKE, Albert (negro)

TODD, James E., Jr.
 , Jas. H.
 , Jim (mountain)
 , Ranken
 , Robt.

TOMS, Saml.

TROUT, N. K.

TURK, James G.
 , Rudolph

URBAN, Mary

VANCE, Arch (Shepherd)
 , John of Silas
 , Silas

VANLEAR, D. N.
 , D. N. (widow)
 , James
 , Jane A.

VIGAR, Charles
 , John E.
 , John, Sr.
 , Miss Mary
 , W. A.

VINES, Elizabeth

VINT, Ben.
 , Martha (see Fan & John Cross)

WALKER, Alexdr.
 , Ben.
 , Wm. (negro)

WALLACE, Nathan
 , Simon

WALTON, Chap.
 , Ed.
 , George
 , John

WAMPLER, Jacob

WARE, John (negro)

WASHINGTON, Thos.

WEBB, Capt. John
 , Saml. (Capt.)

WETZEL, Henry

WHALEN, Thos.

WHEELBARGER, Sam.

WHEELER, Peter (Shavers)

WHISMAN, James

WHITE, George
 , Thos. J.

WHITMORE, A. J.
 , A. R.
 , Asbury
 , David
 , Elizabeth
 , Frank
 , J. M.
 , Jacob
 , John
 , Martin
 , Samuel

WIKLE, Daniel
 , George
 , Jacob
 , James H. (of John)
 , John
 , Peter

WILHITE, Reuben

WILLIAMS, Abraham
 , Wm. (negro)

WILLSON, Isaac

WINE, Daniel
 , Noah
 , Samuel
 , Solomon

WISE, B. Newton
 , Wm., Jr.

WITTS, Phil.
 , Wm. R.

WISEMAN, Elijah

WOLF, Addison
 , John

WOOD, Martha (Dinkels)
 , Nancy
 , Wm.

WOODDELL, Ammi
 , B. A., Jr.
 , Irvine
 , John of Wm. H.
 , Stuart (of Ammi)
 , Stuart (of W. H.)
 , W. H.
 , Wm. of Wm.

WOODS, Ephraim

WRIGHT, Wm.

ZIMMERMAN, John
 , Peter

Augusta County Obituaries 1859

By Anne Covington Kidd

(Continued from Volume 19, Number 2)

June 7th . . . at the residence of her son, in Spring Hill, Augusta County, Mrs. Elizabeth ADAMS, relict of Samuel Adams, dec'd, aged 86 years, 10 months and 20 days . . . a native of Pennsylvania, but emigrated to Virginia in early life . . . leaves three children. (14 June 1859)

Thomas ADAMS, son of David Adams, of Jennings Gap, Augusta county, was killed by lightning on Wednesday the 27th ult., about a mile from his father's residence . . . in the 19th year of his age.—*Rockingham Register*. (17 May 1859)

At Mossy Creek, on the 4th inst. . . Rebecca Mary Ann (ANDREWS) only daughter of William and Sally Andrews—aged 7 years and 6 months. (November 1859)

John BAILEY, a laboring man well known about Staunton, died suddenly at the house of John Serrett, about three miles from Staunton, on Sunday night last. (22 November 1859) . . . volunteer in the Mexican War . . . postmortem examination was made by Drs. Donaghe and Berkeley. (SV 25 November 1859)

In Louisville, Ky., on the 11th of March . . . Mr. William BARKMAN, for many years a citizen of this place, aged about 50 years, (SV 16 April 1859)

At her residence in this county, on the 9th ult., Mrs. Polly BARNHART, widow of Mr. George Barnhart, dec'd., in the 74th year of her age . . . she resided with her husband at the place of her death for about 50 years. (SV 2 April 1859)

Tribute of Respect . . . West Augusta Guard . . . regret . . . death of . . . Adam BICKLE . . . soldier of the war of 1812. Lieut. J. H. Waters, Ch'm. F. M. Imboden, Sec'y. (22 November 1859) . . . died on Friday night. (SV 18 November 1859)

At the residence of her father on the 13th inst., Alice Stuart (BOWYER), daughter of J. C. Bowyer, Esq., of Washington City, in the 14th year of her age . . . remains brought to Staunton and interred in Thorn Rose Cemetery. (SV 21 May 1859)

In this place, on Wednesday morning last, Mr. John H. BROWN, in the 38th year of his age. Tribute of Respect . . . Staunton Lodge, No. 13 . . . condole with the bereaved consort . . . and her now fatherless children. Committee John B. Watts, H. H. Peck, D. C. McGuffin. Jas. F. Patterson, Sec'y. (29 March 1859)

At the residence of Capt. P. B. Rogers, on the Big Calf Pasture in this county, on the 4th of February . . . Martha Jane BURNES, young-

est daughter of William Burnes, aged 10 years 8 months and 24 days . . . was a motherless orphan . . . brought up (by) aunts and uncles. (15 February 1859)

On Saturday, 22nd ult., near Waynesboro', Fannie Ella (BUSH), youngest daughter of Wm. M. and Fannie E. Bush, aged 2 years and 6 months. (1 November 1859)

On Saturday last Miss Mary CALHOON, daughter of the late Rev. William Calhoon, of this county. (9 August 1859)

On Saturday, the 24th inst., at the residence of Mrs. Adams, Union Hill, Richmond . . . Miss Mary E. CARTER, formerly of Staunton, in the 25th year of her age. (4 October 1859)

At his residence in this county, on Wednesday last, Mr. Robert CHRISTIAN. (1 November 1859)

Near Staunton, on the 15th of February, Miss E. Lucy COCHRAN, daughter of the late James A. Cochran, Esq. (22 February 1859) In Staunton . . . profession of religion under . . . the late Rev. Dr. Hendren . . . Her body sleeps by the side of her parents, in the grave-yard at Union Church. (1 March 1859) At the residence of her Aunt, Miss R. C. Lewis. (SV 19 February 1859)

On the 7th inst., in this place, William C. (COWAN), infant son of Mr. Robert Cowan. (12 July 1859)

On the 1st of April, at the residence of his father near Mt. Meridian, Samuel (CRAWFORD), eldest son of Mr. James Crawford, in the 21st year of his age. (26 April 1859)

In this place, on Friday, the 2nd inst., Mr. Edward DOOLEY, aged 50 years. (13 December 1859)

A little son of Mr. Madison DOOM, of this place . . . on Saturday last . . . died. (SV 4 November 1859)

In Canton, Missouri, at the residence of William Eagon, Esq., Dr. Henry EAGON, in the 62nd year of his age, formerly of Staunton, Va. (22 November 1859)

On the 17th inst., at his residence in this County, Mr. George ENGLEMAN . . . aged 76 years and 2 days. (22 March 1859)

In Waynesboro', on the 15th inst., George Junkin FISHBURN, aged 2 years and 2 months, son of the late Prof. Fishburn. (30 August 1859)

At Davidson College, N. C., June 15th, Mrs. Sarah H. (FISHBURN) wife of Prof. C. D. Fishburn, and daughter of Dr. L. Waddell, of Waynesboro', Va.—Her body was brought to Waynesboro' in charge of Dr. Lacy, President of the College, and laid beside those of her mother and an elder sister . . . Mrs. Fishburn became a member of the Presbyterian church . . . in 1850. (5 July 1859) . . . on the 14th inst. (SV 24 June 1859)

At the residence of her son, in Staunton, on the 4th inst. . . . Mrs. Barbary FOX—aged 65 years. (November 1859)

Near New Hope, on the 14th inst., Miss Elizabeth FRANSMAN, in the 22d year of her age . . . a few weeks since . . . an only sister . . . member of the German Baptist Church (25 January 1859)

In New Hope, on the 28th of December last, Miss Sally FRANSMAN, in the 28th year of her age . . . deprived of her kind parents . . . several years since . . . member of the Baptist Church . . . Laurel Hill Church. (18 January 1859)

On the 6th inst., near Mt. Sidney, Robert Samuel (GARBER), 2nd son of Isaac and Rebecca J. Garber, in the 3rd year of his age. (12 July 1859)

On Saturday, the 3rd inst. . . . Jas. McDowell GILBERT, son of Jesse N. Gilbert, in the 19th year of his age. (13 September 1859)

Near Deerfield, on the 10th inst. at the residence of its parents, an infant child (_____ GREINER), of A. S. and Ann W. Griener aged 3 months and 23 days. (30 August 1859)

Near Mercer C. H., Va., Feb. 28th . . . Mrs. Francis C. HALL, wife of Capt. Arch. A. Hall, formerly of this County. (12 April 1859)

On Sunday morning, 4th inst. . . . Martha (HANGER), daughter of William and Margaret Hanger, in the 18th year of her age. (13 December 1859)

At the residence of his father, on the 26th day of May . . . Cicero Preston HAWPE, aged 15 years and 8 months. (14 June 1859)

At his residence near Greenville, Augusta Co. . . . March the 19th . . . Mr. Henry HAWPE, who for more than half a century had been a . . . citizen of that community . . . Two daughters are left. (12 April 1859)

Near Staunton on the 18th inst., Rodney Walker (HENDERSON), second son of Robert and Catharine Henderson, in the 5th year of his age. (29 March 1859) . . . son of Robertus and Catharine Henderson, aged 4 years, 1 month and 19 days. (SV 2 April 1859)

On the 10th inst., at her residence in this county, Mrs. Harriet HENSLEY, wife of Geo. W. Hensley Sr., in the 64th year of her age. (18 October 1859)

On the 22nd ult., at his residence in Middlebrook, Mr. Joseph HESS, aged 68 years, 3 months, and 1 day . . . was a member of the Ev. Lutheran Church at Mt. Tabor . . . leaves a wife and . . . a son and daughter. (SV 7 October 1859)

At his residence in New Madrid, Missouri, on the 1st day of April, Mr. William W. HUNTER, formerly of Augusta county. (3 May 1859)

On the 29th May, in the 20th year of her age, Mary Margaret (HUTCHISON), eldest daughter of Alexander and Mildred HUTCHISON, of Greenville, Augusta Co. (5 July 1859)

In Staunton, at the residence of her daughter, Mrs. Breckenridge, on Friday, the 24th of June, Mrs. Elizabeth JOHNSON, widow of the late John H. Johnson, in the 83d year of her age. (5 July 1859) . . . widow of the late John B. Johnson. (SV 8 July 1859)

On the . . . 21st, in the 16th year of her age, Ella Chapman (JOHNSON), only daughter of Francis B., and the late Dr. Thomas Johnson. (Sv 24 June 1859)

At Blackheath, the residence of her son-in-law, on Wednesday, the 4th inst., Mary Ann (JOHNSON), relict of Chapman Johnson, in the 71st year of her age. (10 May 1859)

In this county, on the 18th ult., at her residence, near West View, Sophia KELLER, wife of George Keller, dec'd., aged 96 years . . . member of the German Reformed Church for 75 years. (22 November 1859)

In Staunton, on Thursday last, John Chesley KINNEY, son of Wm. Kinney, Esq., in the ____d year of his age. Tribute of Respect . . . West Augusta Guards . . . J. Bumgardner, P. Hoge, Wm. Blackburn, Com. Lieut. J. H. Waters, Ch'm. F. M. Imboden, Sec'y. (SV 21 October 1859)

. . . . Nicholas C. KINNEY, Esq., departed this life, on Wednesday evening last . . . had held the office of Clerk of the Circuit Court of Augusta county for many years . . . during the war of 1812, held a commission in the United States army and served on the Northern frontier . . . buried on Friday with military honors. Tribute of Respect . . . West Augusta Guard . . . Lieutenant Waters, Chairman. F. M. Imboden, Secretary. Tribute of Respect. At a Circuit Court for Augusta county . . . Thomas J. Michie, Esq. announced . . . the death . . . and on behalf of the members of the Staunton Bar, presented the proceedings of a meeting of the Bar . . . Col. John B. Baldwin, appointed Secretary . . . John D. Imboden, Esq. . . . John Paris, Dep. Cl'k. (22 November 1859) . . . leaving a devoted wife and . . . children . . . more than sixty years. (SV 18 November 1859)

Mrs. KNOWLES, one of the attendants at the Lunatic Asylum, was killed on Friday last by one of the patients . . . formerly of Rockbridge county, Va. (SV 12 August 1859)

Died, in Athens, on the 14th inst., at the residence of Mr. Geo. W. Ross, Mrs. Jas. G. LAIRD, daughter of James F. Patterson, of Staunton . . . sister. Athens, Tenn., June 18. (28 June 1859) . . . on the 15th inst., Mrs. Maria LAIRD. (SV 24 June 1859)

At Sugar Grove, on the Calf Pasture, on Tuesday the 2nd inst., Mrs. Sally LANGE, in the 49th year of her age . . . much loved little ones. (16 August 1859)

March 11th at Mr. Wm. Glendy's . . . Joseph N. LAREW, youngest son of Jacob Larew, aged 21 years and two days. (12 April 1859)

At Charleston, S. C., on Monday night, the 7th inst., Mrs. Cornelia LENOIR, daughter of the late John B. Christian, of this county, and wife of Walter Lenoir, Esq., of North Carolina. (15 February 1859) . . . wife of Walter W. Lenoir, Esq., of Lenoir, N. C. . . . embraced the religion of her fathers, under . . . Rev. Dr. McFarland . . . a brother and sister came, and . . . soothed her dying hours . . . she sleeps by the side of her only child in the . . . valley of the Yadkin. (1 March 1859)

On the 9th inst., Mrs. Elizabeth J. LONG, wife of David Long, aged thirty-six years. (SV 24 June 1859)

Near Buffalo Gap, on the 27th of Nov., Jno. B. LONG, aged 21 years. (6 December 1859)

Near Fishersville, on the 8th inst., Mrs. C. M. LYNN, wife of A. M. Lynn, in the 49th year of her age. (16 August 1859)

On the 8th inst., Mrs. Susan MARSHALL, wife of Mr. William Marshall, of this county, aged 62 years. (SV 24 June 1859)

On the 29th ult. . . . Mrs. Drusilla W. MASON, (wife of Claiborne R. Mason) in the forty-fifth year of her age . . . member of the Baptist Church. (19 April 1859)

At the residence of his father, near this place, on the 31st ult., Charles P. W. (MATHENEY), son of William M. and Ann E. Mathe-ney, aged 3 years and 3 months. (SV 9 April 1859)

Peachy H. MATHENEY . . . was born in Rockingham County, Va, August 20th, 1805, and departed this life at his residence near Staunton, January 15th, leaving . . . wife, six children. (1 February 1859) . . . In 1822 he . . . united with the M. E. Church at Spring Creek, Rockingham Circuit. (SV 29 January 1859)

Departed this life, Wednesday the 6th inst. . . . Eleanor Douglas (McCUE), daughter of John and Ellen S. McCue, aged 18 months. (12 April 1859)

On Monday evening, the 6th inst., at the residence of her son-in-law, Mr. Peter H. Eidson, Mrs. Sarah MOFFETT, relict of John Moffett, sen., in the 85th year of her age . . . member of the Presbyterian Church of Hebron . . . devoted mother. (14 June 1859)

In this place, on Tuesday evening last, Mrs. Frances MOON, consort of Mr. Richard A. Moon, in the ____ of her age. (3 May 1859)

Mr. Henry MYERS, who had been driving stage for Messrs. Chidester, Rapley & Co., on the Des Arc and Fort Smith line . . . died . . . at the Des Arc Hotel, in Des Arc, on Wednesday evening last . . . was about 42 years . . . was formerly of Staunton . . . near which he has two daughters and other relatives. At one time he was in the employ of Edwin Porter & Co., and drove teams out of Staunton and Warm Springs. *Des Arc (Arkansas) Citizen*. (9 August 1859)

At Hill's Hotel, in Harrisonburg, on the 19th instant . . . Miss Mary PATTERSON, formerly of Augusta co., in the 29th year of her age. (SV 30 September 1859) . . . united with Mt. Horeb Presbyterian Church. (27 September 1859)

On the 3rd inst., near Waynesborough, Susan P. (PAUL), second daughter of James M. and Susan Paul, aged 10 years, 4 months and 6 days. (11 October 1859)

. . . death in Bates county, Mo., of Mrs. Mary PECK, wife of John H. Peck, formerly of this county. (SV 25 November 1859)

Mr. Wm. A. PERRIN, of this place, was bitten by a rattle-snake at Stribling Springs, on Saturday afternoon last, and died . . . on Sunday. (9 August 1859) . . . at the Augusta Springs. (SV 12 August 1859)

In this place, at the residence of his brother-in-law, Mr. John B. Evans, on Thursday morning last, Mr. William H. PRICE, formerly of Winchester, Va. in the 24th year of his age. (27 December 1859)

In Staunton . . . the 25th inst., Mr. Benjamin T. REID, of this county, (26 July 1859)

On the 9th inst., John C. REUBUSH, only son of Mr. John Reubush, Jr., aged 8 years, 11 months and 6 days. (SV 19 March 1859)

Judge Green B. SAMUELS, of the Court of Appeals, died at the Powhatan Hotel, Richmond, on Wednesday last . . . native and resident of Shenandoah county . . . was about sixty-five . . . The Third Judicial Section, which will elect the (new) Judge, is composed of the following counties: Culpeper, Madison, Greene, Orange, Albemarle, Louisa, Fluvanna, Goochland, Nelson, Amherst, Rockbridge, Augusta, Bath, Pendleton, Highland, Rockingham, Page, Shenandoah, Warren, Hardy, Clarke, Frederick, Hampshire, Morgan, Berkeley and Jefferson . . . A gentleman of this place has been named . . . in connection with the office . . . He has a rare amount of common sense, legal learning . . . youth, and a sound constitution . . . Col. John B. Baldwin. (11 January 1859)

In Staunton, on Thursday last, Mr. Horace SEELY. (22 March 1859) . . . formerly of Odenburg, New York, but since 1831, a citizen of Staunton . . . died at his residence . . . on Thursday 17th March, in the fifty-second year of his age, leaving . . . wife, son and two daughters. (29 March 1859)

On the Long Glade, Aug. 27th, Mrs. Elizabeth (SHRECKHISE), wife of Mr. Jacob Shreckhise . . . children . . . member of the Presbyterian Church. (30 August 1859)

Departed this life, on Wednesday, Dec. 22, 1858, Adam SHULTZ, at his own residence near Greenville, Augusta county, Va., aged 66 years. At an early age he became a member of the German Reformed Church . . . afterwards . . . the Methodist F. Church . . . and during

much of that time served . . . as an official member on Augusta Circuit. (18 January 1859) . . . faithful husband, an affectionate father. (SV 29 January 1859)

At the residence of his father in Union, Monroe County, on the 6th inst., John J. SLONAKER, son of B. Slonaker, formerly of this place, in the 16th year of his age. (1 February 1859)

On the 8th inst., at the residence of Mr. Ruff, of this County, Maggie L. SOSEY, daughter of Jacob Sosey, formerly of Staunton, aged about seven years.—This motherless little one had but a few weeks since arrived from a distant State . . . to be cherished . . . in her grandfather's house. (13 September 1859)

The remains of B. Baldwin STUART arrived in this place on Thursday afternoon last . . . notice of his death is from the Memphis *Avalanche* of May 9th: . . . died at the Gayoso House last night . . . from injuries received in the late disaster to the steamer St. Nicholas . . . Dr. J. H. Erskine, his physician . . . was . . . twenty-three years of age . . . and had just entered upon the practice of law with his father, Hon. A. H. H. Stuart . . . was on his way to Louisiana where he was to have been married on the 5th inst. His mother and father have been here . . . and also Dr. Lochett and son, friends of his from Louisiana. Tribute of Respect . . . "Staunton Lyceum" . . . committee composed of Messrs. Howe Y. Peyton, J. Marshall Hanger & Wm. M. Guy. A. B. Cochran, Pres't. F. M. Imboden, Sect. Tribute of Respect . . . Staunton Bar . . . resolutions offered by Gen. Wm. H. Harman. T. J. Michie, Chairman. J. Bumgardner, Jr., Secretary. (17 May 1859) . . . His remains were brought to Staunton and deposited in Thornrose Cemetery. (SV 14 May 1859)

On the 30th ult. . . Martha Virginia (SUMMERS), daughter of Mrs. J. A. Summers, aged ____ years. (10 May 1859)

On Sunday last Robert Louis (TALLIAFERRO), son of William and Lucy Talliaferro in the 26th year of his age. (8 February 1859) In this place. (SV 12 February 1859)

In Staunton, on Saturday, the 25th inst., Bessie Peyton (TAYLOR), infant daughter of Rev. George B. and Susan Spottswood Taylor. (28 June 1859)

On . . . the 9th inst., at the house of Jas. E. Ervine, in Waynesboro', Hannah Mary (TAYLOR), only daughter of David and Mary C. Taylor, in the 15th year of her age. She was early left an orphan, having lost her mother when she was only four years of age, and her father soon afterwards. (20 September 1859)

At her residence near Greenville, Augusta co., on the 24th ult., Mrs. Phebe T. THOMPSON, wife of Mr. John S. Thompson, in her 67th year . . . had attended the church at Bethel . . . was the daughter

of the late Mr. George Pilson, and joined the Church of Tinkling Spring, under . . . the Rev. John McCue about . . . 1812. In 1823 she became a member of Bethel Church. (13 December 1859)

On Saturday last, about three miles from Staunton . . . Wm. Farrar (killed) . . . Michael VANCE . . . Farrar alleges that his wife had been insulted by Vance . . . arrested, and fully committed by Justice Bickle. (30 September 1859)

On the 18th inst. . . Margaret E. (VANLEAR) eldest daughter of Robert Van Lear, in the 22nd year of her age. (24 May 1859)

At the residence of his son-in-law, Mr. James M. Pettigrew, in Lexington, on the 12th of November . . . Charles VARNER, Esq., in the 63rd year of his age. Mr. Varner, we believe, was a native of Augusta county, but had resided in this town from his boyhood . . . twice elected to the magistracy in this district. . . leaves several children. (22 November 1859)

On the 12th inst., John Letcher (WADE), son of W. M. Wade, aged about 6 months. (SV 16 June 1859)

In Cincinnati, May 20th, Mr. John WALKER, son of Alexander Walker of this county, in the 35th year of his age . . . his mortal remains (conveyed) to the grave yard of Augusta Church. (7 June 1859)

On the 11th of July . . . Walter Scot (WELLER), aged 9 months and 13 days, and on the 8th of August Jas. Grandan (WELLER), aged two years, eight months and 24 days, infant children of Tobias and Betsy Jane Weller. (16 August 1859)

On Friday last, at the residence of his grandfather, W. W. Donaghe, Esq., near Staunton, Robert (WHITE), son of the Rev. Dr. White, of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, aged about 13 years. (23 August 1859)

On Back Creek, near Sherando, Augusta County . . . on the 15th April, Mr. James E. M. WHITLOCK aged 21 years, 8 months and 15 days. (26 April 1859)

On the 1st inst., Miss Bettie J. WHITMORE, daughter of Mrs. Nancy Whitmore, aged 27 years, 5 months and 16 days. (11 October 1859)

In Staunton, the 25th of December last, Mr. John WISE, aged 56 years, 10 months, and 12 days . . . a native and resident of this county . . . Thus have father and mother passed away within eight months of each other . . . (leave) family of orphans. (11 January 1859)

On the 26th inst., Andrew YOUNG, Sen., in the 87th year of his age . . . member of Augusta Church, and was the oldest member when he died. (29 November 1859)

Lots in the town of Waynesborough in the County of Augusta liable to Taxes for the Year 1800.

Persons Names Owning Lots		Occupant	Yearly Rent	Amt of Taxes On Lot
Martin Bush	1	Saml Burns	33.33	52
Henry Miser	1	Henry Miser	50.00	78
Buster & Bomgarner	1	Buster & Bomgarner	50.00	78
Wm. White	1	Wm. White	66.67	1.14
Total—Dolls.			\$200.00	3.12

Augusta County, Virginia Land Tax Books, 1782-1802.
Microfilm 929.3 Aug, Reel 21, Waynesboro Public Library, Waynesboro, VA

Anne C. Kidd

IN MEMORIAM

Mr. Frank Seibel Allen
*Mrs. Silva E. Clem
Mr. William A. Crawford
Mr. Dale Crosson
*Mr. Carter L. Loth
Mr. J. Ellison Loth
*Miss Margaret E. McCue
Mrs. C. Braxton Valentine
*Charter Member

NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. Robert L. Aldrich, Redmond, Washington
Mr. & Mrs. Jim T. Almarode, Stuarts Draft, Virginia
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Baldwin, Staunton, Virginia
Mr. Thurman L. Baskin, Las Vegas, Nevada
Ms. Barbara Zipser Braeback, Daly City, California
Mr. Edwin B. Brown, Ellicott City, Maryland
Mrs. Guinever Davis, Bridgewater, Virginia
Mr. & Mrs. John B. Davis, Waynesboro, Virginia
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Derrow, Mount Sidney, Virginia
Mr. & Mrs. Woodrow C. Doak, Alexandria, Virginia
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond L. Frye, Mount Sidney, Virginia
Mrs. James L. Green, Churchville, Virginia
Miss Janet Greenlee, Davenport, Iowa
Dr. Mark A. Hammock, Waynesboro, Virginia
Mrs. Rozalia C. Hogg, Waynesboro, Virginia
Mr. Gary Long, Staunton, Virginia
Mrs. Norma F. McBee, Springfield, Oregon
Mr. Ben McCutchan, Healdsburg, California
Mr. Daniel A. Metraux, Staunton, Virginia
Mrs. W. Frank Patterson, Raphine, Virginia
Ms. Virginia M. Plumridge, Palo Alto, California
Mrs. Ruby Rosen, Middlebrook, Virginia
Mrs. Clarence D. Shackelford, Yuba City, California
Mrs. Louise W. Smith, Waynesboro, Virginia
Mr. Gene W. Spitler, Swoope, Virginia
Mr. Edwin Thornton, Robinson, Kansas
Mrs. Harold R. Trickey, Franklin, Tennessee
Mr. John E. Westgate, Arlington, Virginia
Mrs. T. C. Whitaker, Waynesboro, Virginia
Mr. James Howard Wooddell, Okeana, Ohio

Presidents of the Augusta County Historical Society

*Dr. Richard P. Bell, 1964-1966

*Harry Lee Nash, Jr., 1966-1967

*Dr. Marshall M. Brice, 1967-1968

*Dr. James Sprunt, 1968-1970

*Richard M. Hamrick, Jr., 1970-1972

†Joseph B. Yount III, 1972-1974

*Mrs. William Bushman, 1974-1976

*John M. Dunlap, Jr., 1976-1977

Miss Mary Kathryn Blackwell, 1977-1979

Mrs. Harry D. Hevener, 1979-1981

*John M. McChesney, Jr., 1981-1983

Mrs. John E. True, 1983-1985

*denotes Charter Member of Society

†denotes Honorary Charter Member

